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# **North Mississippi Refuges Complex** including:

**Dahomey NWR, Tallahatchie NWR, and Coldwater  
River NWR**

**Annual Narrative**  
**Grenada, Mississippi**

**Calendar Year**  
**2002**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Dahomey.....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Tallahatchie NWR.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>Coldwater River NWR.....</b>	<b>xiv</b>
<b>Highlights.....</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>Climate Data.....</b>	<b>xix</b>
 <b>Monitoring and Studies.....</b>	 <b>1</b>
1a. Surveys and Censuses.....	1
1b. Studies and Investigations.....	3
 <b>Habitat Restoration.....</b>	 <b>6</b>
2a. Wetland restoration: On-refuge.....	6
2b. Upland restoration: On-refuge.....	6
2c. Wetland restoration: Off-refuge.....	6
2d. Upland restoration: Off-refuge.....	6
 <b>Habitat Management.....</b>	 <b>7</b>
3a. Manage water levels.....	7
3b. Manage moist soil units.....	7
3c. Graze/mow/hay.....	7
3d. Farming.....	8
3e. Forest cutting.....	NR
3f. Prescribed burning.....	NR
3g. Control pest plants.....	NR
 <b>Fish and Wildlife Management.....</b>	 <b>10</b>
4a. Bird banding.....	10
4b. Disease monitoring and treatment.....	NR
4c. Reintroductions.....	NR
4d. Provide nest structures.....	11
4e. Predator and exotic control.....	12
 <b>Coordination Activities.....</b>	 <b>13</b>
5a. Interagency coordination.....	13
5b. Tribal coordination.....	NR
5c. Private land activities.....	13
5d. Oil and gas activities.....	NR
5e. Cooperative/Friends Organizations.....	NR
 <b>Resource Protection.....</b>	 <b>16</b>
6a. Law enforcement.....	16

6b. Wildfire preparedness.....	16
6c. Manage permits and economic uses.....	NR
6d. Contaminant investigation and cleanup.....	NR
6e. Manage water rights.....	NR
6f. Manage cultural resources.....	NR
6g. Federal Facility Compliance Act.....	NR
6h. Land acquisition.....	19
6i. Wilderness and natural area.....	NR
6j. Threats and conflicts.....	NR
<b>Alaska Only.....</b>	<b>NR</b>
<b>Public Education and Recreation.....</b>	<b>20</b>
8a. Provide visitor services.....	20
8b. Outreach.....	21
<b>Planning and Administration.....</b>	<b>23</b>
9a. Comprehensive management planning.....	23
9b. General administration.....	23
<b>Credits.....</b>	<b>29</b>

## INTRODUCTION

The North Mississippi Refuges Complex (NMRC), formerly the Mississippi Wetland Management District, was established in Grenada, Mississippi in 1989, primarily to manage the increased land base being acquired through the transfer of properties to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), now the Farm Services Administration, and the acquisition of **Dahomey, Coldwater River** (formerly part of Tallahatchie NWR), and **Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuges** (NWR). At that time, there were no other stations in an appropriate geographical location to manage these lands. After several management decisions and boundary changes, NMRC's final geographical boundaries contained 26 counties in northern Mississippi. NMRC is divided into three work areas. Each work area is comprised of one refuge and all FmHA properties within that area (Figure 1).

**FmHA Lands** are properties in which the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) foreclosed on, or the owner voluntarily deeded his land back to the USDA due to lack of payment on loans. The original owner was given the right to buy back his land, but Executive Order 11990 required the wetlands on these properties to be set aside or protected. Most of the properties that the original owners did not buy back were transferred in fee title to the Service to manage. Other such properties were repurchased by the original owner, but were subject to restrictive USDA easements. Easement management responsibilities of these properties were transferred to the Service and are considered units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. **FmHA Lands** range from 1 acre to over a 1,000 acres in size and are categorized as follows:

- 1) **Fee Title Properties:** These properties are now considered public land and are managed as units of the National Wildlife Refuge System..
- 2) **Conservation Easements:** The ownership of these properties remains in the private sector, but the Service retains most management rights. For example, these lands can no longer farmed and the Service is allowed to mow, install water control structures, build levees, burn, plant seedlings or acorns, and manage water levels.
- 3) **Flood plain Easements:** The least restrictive of the two easements, the ownership remains in the private sector with restrictions which prohibit degradation of existing flood plain values. The land owner is usually allowed to farm acreage that was previously in cultivation, but the easement prevents further draining or clearing of the land. These easements often contain, smaller, more restrictive conservation easements within their boundaries.

In 1989, there were four recorded easements for a total land base of 1,070 acres. As of 2002, NMRC manages three traditional **NWRs** totaling 16,418 fee acres, 48 **FmHA Fee Title** transfers totaling 10,684 acres, 58 **Conservation Easements** totaling 4,368 acres, and 22 **Floodplain Easements** totaling 2,160 acres (Figure 2 and Table 1). The NMRC now manages 128 FmHA tracts and three NWR totaling 33,630 acres.

# North Mississippi Refuges Complex (NMRC)

## Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs

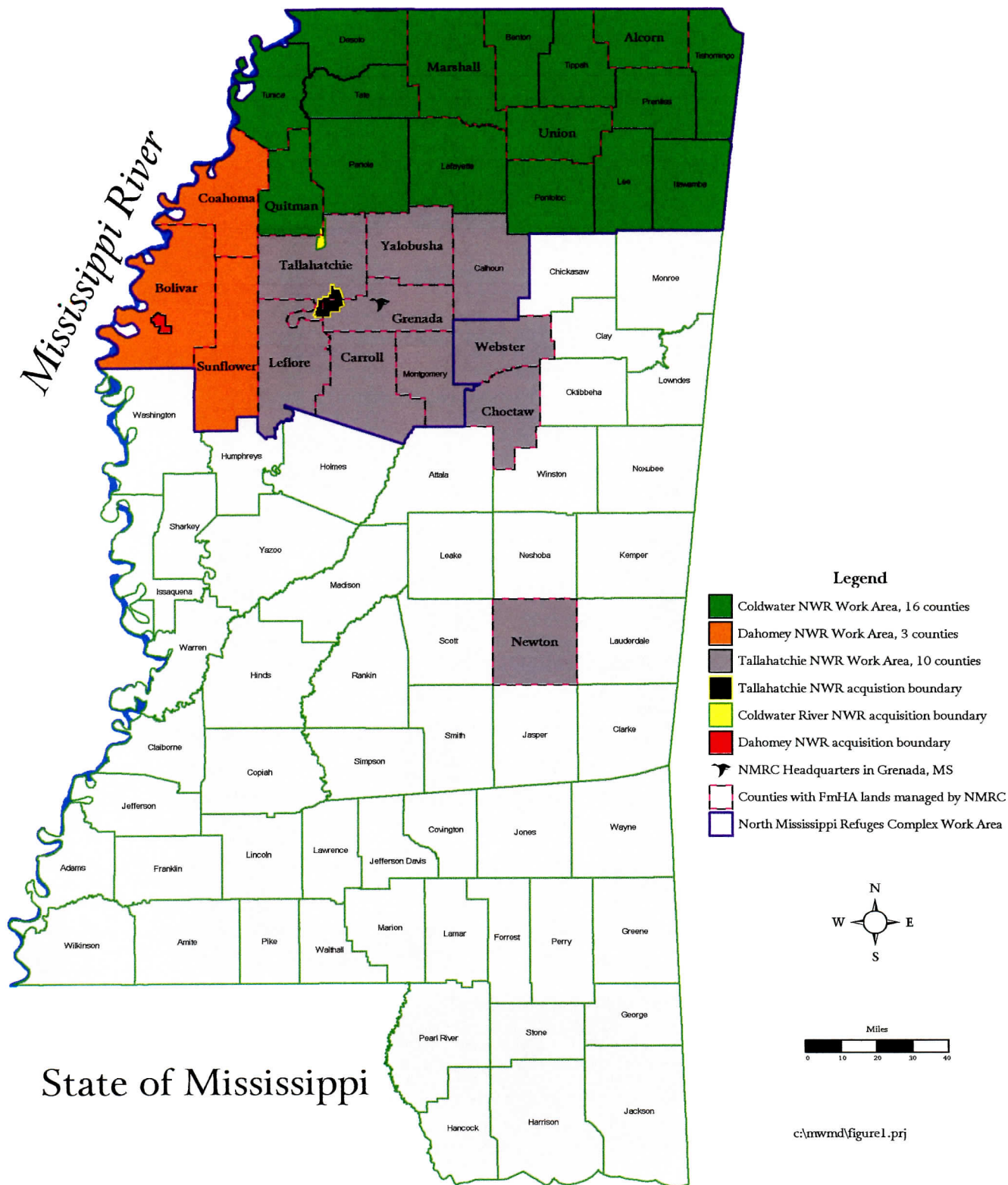


Figure 1. Refuge and work area locations for NMRC.

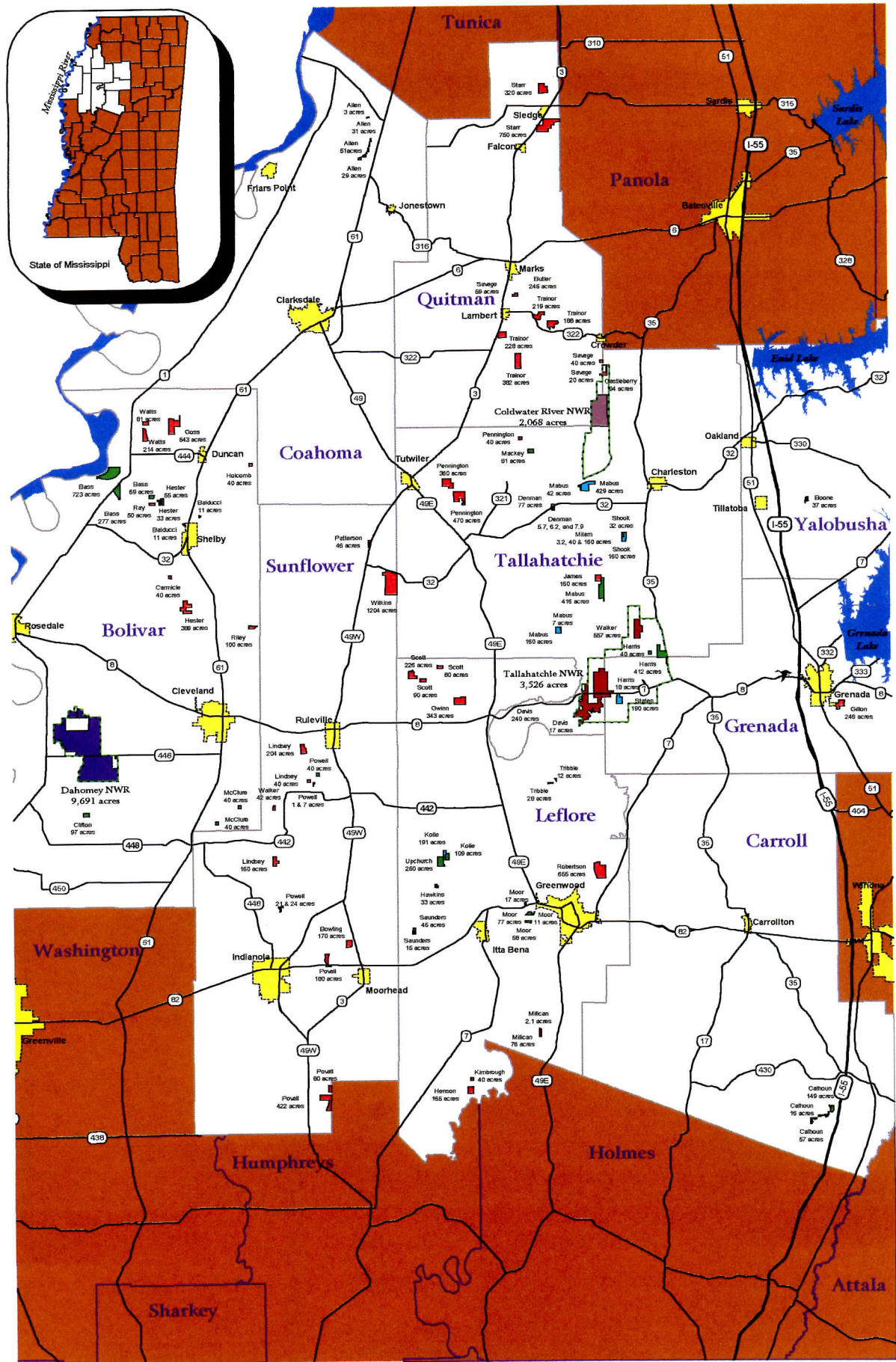


Figure 2. The nine counties which contain most of the properties administered by NMRC. Six counties are not depicted.

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Table 1. Properties managed by North Mississippi Refuge Complex

REFUGE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	ESTATE	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	YEAR ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
Dahomey NWR								
						T22N R7W SEC. 17, 19, 22 & 27-34; T21N R7W SEC. 1-4 & 9-12	1993	33°42'N 90°55'W
Allen Gray Estate/TNC	BOLIVAR	9,269	Fee Title	CHOCTAW, PACE	BEULAH, LOBDELL			
MS Dept of Trans. (DOT)	BOLIVAR	162	Fee Title	CHOCTAW	LOBDELL	T22N R7W SEC. 34	1991	33°42'N 90°54'W
West Boliver Co. School Board	BOLIVAR	260	Lease	CHOCTAW, PACE	BEULAH, LOBDELL	T22N R7W SEC. 16	N/A	33°45'N 90°09'W
DAHOMEY NWR	TOTAL ACRES		9,691					
TALLAHATCHIE NWR								
						T23N R2E SEC. 21, 22 & 28	1991	30°50'N 90°05'W
Walker Tract	TALLAHATCHIE	557	Fee Title	PHILIPP	CASCILLA			
	GRENADA, TALLAHATCHIE	509	Fee Title	PHILIPP	PHILIPP	T22N R1E SEC.13 & 24; T22N R2E SEC. 18	1992	33°45'N 90°08'W
John Whitten	GRENADA, TALLAHATCHIE	1,361	Fee Title	PHILIPP	PHILIPP	T22N R1E SEC. 1, 12 & 13; T22N R2E SEC. 7 & 18	1992	33°47'N 90°08'W
John Hancock				GREENWOOD, PHILIPP		T22N R1E SEC. 14, 22-27 & 34	1997	33°45'N 90°09'W
Chicago Mills/DOT	TALLAHATCHIE	1,656	Fee Title		MONEY, PHILIPP			
TALLAHATCHIE NWR	TOTAL ACRES (Fee Title only)		4,083					
COLDWATER RIVER NWR								
						T26N R2E SEC. 30 & 31; T26N R1E SEC. 25 & 36	1991	34°5'N 90°08'W
Travelers Insurance	QUITMAN, TALLAHATCHIE	1,730	Fee Title	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T26N R2E SEC. 7	1996	34°8'N 90°08'W
Shiele Tract	TALLAHATCHIE	40	Fee Title	CROWDER	CROWDER			
	QUITMAN, TALLAHATCHIE	298	Fee Title	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T26N R2E SEC. 19; T26N R1E SEC. 24	1996	34°6'N 90°08'W
Duck Ponds Inc.						T25N R1E SEC. 23 & 24; T25N R2E SEC. 18 & 19	2001	
Warwick Tract	TALLAHATCHIE	306	Fee Title	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE			
COLDWATER RIVER NWR	TOTAL ACRES		2,374					
FmHA FEE TITLE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
CARMICLE	BOLIVAR	40	14.00	PACE	SHELBY	T24N R6W SEC. 26	07/26/91	33°54'N 90°47'W
						T26N R6W SEC. 35 & 36; T25N R6W SEC. 2	07/14/94	34°05'N 90°47'W
GOSS	BOLIVAR	543	17.00	MELLWOOD	ROUND LAKE	T23N R6W SEC. 1	07/26/91	33°52'N 90°46'W
HESTER, T. III	BOLIVAR	389	13.00	PACE	PACE	T25N R5W SEC. 13	07/26/91	34°02'N 90°40'W
HOLCOMB, D.	BOLIVAR	40	12.00	CLARKSDALE	DUNCAN	T25N R6W SEC. 33	09/27/94	33°59'N 90°49'W
RAY	BOLIVAR	50	18.00	PACE	SHELBY	T23N R5W SEC. 13	07/26/91	33°50'N 90°40'W
RILEY	BOLIVAR	100	11.00	MOUND BAYOU	MERIGOLD	T25N R6W SEC. 4	07/31/92	34°04'N 90°50'W
WATTS, J.	BOLIVAR	214	16.00	MELLWOOD	ROUND LAKE	T26N R6W SEC. 33	07/31/92	34°04'N 90°49'W
WATTS, J.	BOLIVAR	81	16.00	MELLWOOD	ROUND LAKE	T22N R5E SEC. 21	07/14/93	33°45'N 89°46'W
GILLON	GRENADA	245	11.00	GRENADA	GRENADA	T22N R2W SEC. 13 & 24	02/19/92	33°45'N 90°21'W
GWIN	LEFLORE	343	16.00	SUMNER	GLENDORA	T17N R1W SEC. 19	07/15/92	33°19'N 90°20'W
HENSON	LEFLORE	165	19.00	MOSSY LAKE	MONTGOMERY	T17N R1W SEC. 19	?	33°19'N 90°20'W
HENSON / A.C.O.E.	LEFLORE	275	no	MOSSY LAKE	MONTGOMERY	T17N R1W SEC. 18	04/18/92	33°19'N 90°20'W
KIMBROUGH, A.M.	LEFLORE	40	18.00	MOSSY LAKE	MONTGOMERY	T18N R1E SEC. 30	03/05/92	33°23'N 90°14'W
MILLICAN, H.	LEFLORE	2	17.00	SEVEN PINE	SIDON	T18N R1E SEC. 31	03/05/92	33°23'N 90°14'W
MILLICAN, H.	LEFLORE	76	17.00	SEVEN PINE	SIDON	T20N R1E SEC. 24 & 25	10/02/90	33°34'N 90°08'W
ROBERTSON	LEFLORE	665	14.00	GREENWOOD	GREENWOOD	T22N R2W SEC. 8	09/01/94	33°47'N 90°25'W
SCOTT	LEFLORE	226	20.00	SUMNER	BROOKS	T22N R2W SEC. 3	09/01/94	33°48'N 90°23'W
SCOTT	LEFLORE	80	20.00	SUMNER	BROOKS	T22N R2W SEC. 9	09/01/94	33°47'N 90°24'W
SCOTT	LEFLORE	90	20.00	SUMNER	BROOKS	T5S R2W SEC. 28 & 29		34°37'N 89°25'W
SMITH, E.	MARSHALL	232	10.00	POTTS CAMP	MALONE	T6S R1W SEC. 6 & 7; T6S R2W SEC.1		34°35'N 89°21'W
WHALEY	MARSHALL	437	11.00	POTTS CAMP	BETHLEHEM	T27N R1W SEC. 11, 12 & 14	04/01/99	34°13'N 90°15'W
BUTLER	QUITMAN	245		TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 11	11/06/90	34°13'N 90°16'W
SAVAGE, E.	QUITMAN	59	10.00	TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T26N R1E SEC. 1	09/01/93	34°08'N 90°08'W
SAVAGE, P.	QUITMAN	40	13.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T26N R1E SEC. 12	09/01/93	34°07'N 90°08'W
SAVAGE, P.	QUITMAN	20	13.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T8S R10W SEC. 1 & 2	06/02/91	34°25'N 90°13'W
STARR, R.	QUITMAN	750	12.00	SLEDGE	CRENSHAW SOUTH	T7S R10W SEC. 23	06/02/91	34°27'N 90°13'W
STARR, R.	QUITMAN	320	12.00	SLEDGE	CRENSHAW SOUTH	T26N R1W SEC. 2 & 11	11/06/90	34°09'N 90°15'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	382	11.00	TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1E SEC. 19& 20	11/06/90	34°12'N 90°14'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	219	11.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T27N R1E SEC. 20, 21 & 29	11/06/90	34°11'N 90°12'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	188	11.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T27N R1W SEC. 27	11/06/90	34°10'N 90°17'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	228	11.00	TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T19N R3W SEC. 29	12/06/91	33°29'N 90°31'W
BOWLING	SUNFLOWER	170	14.00	BAIRD	MOOREHEAD	T20N R4W SEC. 17	07/26/91	33°34'N 90°38'W
LINDSEY, L.	SUNFLOWER	160	13.00	CLEVELAND	BOYER	T21N R4W SEC. 14	07/26/91	33°40'N 90°35'W
LINDSEY, L.	SUNFLOWER	40	13.00	CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T22N R4W SEC. 3	07/26/91	33°42'N 90°35'W
LINDSEY, L.	SUNFLOWER	204	13.00	CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T19N R4W SEC. 25	11/06/90	33°27'N 90°33'W
POVALL / KITCHENS	SUNFLOWER	180	11.00	BAIRD	MOOREHEAD	T17N R4W SEC. 24 & 25	11/06/90	33°18'N 90°33'W
POVALL / KITCHENS	SUNFLOWER	422	11.00	BAIRD	INVERNESS	T17N R4W SEC. 13 & 18	11/06/90	33°19'N 90°33'W
POVALL / KITCHENS	SUNFLOWER	80	11.00	BAIRD	INVERNESS	T21N R4W SEC. 29	10/02/90	33°38'N 90°38'W
WALKER	SUNFLOWER	42	10.00	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	T24N R3W SEC. 15 & 22	09/01/94	33°56'N 90°29'W
PATTERSON / WHITTEN	SUNFLOWER	46	15.00	SUMNER	ROME	T24N R3W SEC. 35 & 36; T23N R3W SEC. 1	05/02/91	33°54'N 90°22'W
WILKINS	SUNFLOWER	1,204	12.00	SUMNER	ROME	T26N R2E SEC. 7	11/01/93	34°07'N 90°07'W
CASTLEBERRY	TALLAHATCHIE	94	12.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T24N R1E SEC. 36	10/11/90	33°54'N 90°08'W
JAMES	TALLAHATCHIE	160	10.00	PHILLIP	TIPPO	T25N R2W SEC.36		33°59'N 90°21'W
PENNINGTON	TALLAHATCHIE	470	17.00	SUMNER	WEBB & VANCE	T25N R2W SEC. 26		34°00'N 90°22'W
PENNINGTON	TALLAHATCHIE	360	17.00	TUTWILER	TUTWILER & VANCE	T25N R1W SEC. 2		34°03'N 90°15'W
PENNINGTON	TALLAHATCHIE	40	17.00	TUTWILER	VANCE	T7S R2E SEC. 32 & 33	07/22/94	34°26'N 89°06'W
FOOSHEE / SMITH	UNION	104	10.00	NEW ALBANY	NEW ALBANY WEST			
					ETTA, NEW ALBANY WEST	T7S R2E SEC. 31 & 32	07/22/94	34°26'N 89°07'W
FOOSHEE / SMITH	UNION	134	10.00	NEW ALBANY				
48 FEE TITLE PROPERTIES IN 8 COUNTIES		10,684	ACRES					

Table 1. Properties managed by North Mississippi Refuge Complex.

FmHA CONSERVATION EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
BELL / CRAB	ALCORN	40	10C	WALNUT	CHALYBEATE	T2S R5E SEC. 29	11/25/91	34°53'N 88°47'W
TURNER / TALLEY	ALCORN	8	11C	CORINTH	KUSSUTH NORTH	T1S R6E SEC. 35	02/22/95	34°57'N 88°37'W
BALDUCCI	BOLIVAR	12	19C	MOUND BAYOU	MOUND BAYOU	T24N R5W SEC. 6	10/13/95	33°58'N 90°45'W
BALDUCCI	BOLIVAR	12	19C	PACE	SHELBY	T24N R6W SEC. 1	10/13/95	33°58'N 90°46'W
BASS, B.H.	BOLIVAR	69	15C	PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 33	04/21/92	33°59'N 90°49'W
BASS, B.H.	BOLIVAR	277	15C	MELLWOOD	LACONIA, ROUND LAKE & SHELBY	T25N R7W SEC. 25 & 36	04/21/92	34°00'N 90°52'W
BASS, B.H.	BOLIVAR	723	15C	MELLWOOD	LACONIA & ROUND LAKE	T25N R7W SEC. 23 & 24	04/21/92	34°01'N 90°52'W
CLIFTON, R.	BOLIVAR	97	10C	CHOCTAW	LOBDELL	T21N R7W SEC. 28	12/18/89	33°08'N 90°55'W
HESTER, T. JR.	BOLIVAR	55		PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 34		33°59'N 90°48'W
HESTER, T. JR.	BOLIVAR	35		PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 34		33°59'N 90°48'W
McCLURE, J.	BOLIVAR	40		CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	T21N R4W SEC. 26		33°47'N 90°43'W
McCLURE, J.	BOLIVAR	40		CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	T21N R5W SEC. 33		33°38'N 90°41'W
CALHOUN / DANCE	CARROLL	149	10C	COILA	PEACHAHALA CREEK	T17N R5E SEC. 31 & 32		33°17'N 89°47'W
CALHOUN / DANCE	CARROLL	57	10C	COILA	PEACHAHALA CREEK	T16N R5E SEC. 6		33°16'N 89°49'W
CALHOUN / DANCE	CARROLL	16	10C	COILA	PEACHAHALA CREEK	T17N R5E SEC. 31		33°17'N 89°48'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	4	11C	MARKS	LULA	T30N R3W SEC. 34		34°25'N 90°29'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	52	11C	MARKS	LULA	T29N R3W SEC. 10 & 15		34°22'N 90°29'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	31	11C	MARKS	LULA	T29N R3W SEC. 10 & 11		34°23'N 90°29'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	30	11C	MARKS, FARRELL	LULA	T29N R3W SEC. 15		34°22'N 90°30'W
SAFLEY / BRADY	COAHOMA	13	10C	MOUND BAYOU	BALTZER	T25N R3W SEC. 32	02/26/90	33°59'N 90°31'W
STATEN	GRENADA	74	12C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T22N R2E SEC. 17 & 20		33°45'N 90°06'W
HARRIS, W.L.	GRENADA	18	10C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T22N R2E SEC. 10		33°46'N 90°04'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	11	15C	GREENWOOD	GREENWOOD	T19N R1W SEC. 12	11/29/90	33°31'N 90°14'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	77	15C	GREENWOOD & SCHLATER	GREENWOOD & SHELLMOUND	T19N R1W SEC. 12	11/29/90	33°31'N 90°15'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	17	15C	SCHLATER	SHELLMOUND	T19N R1W SEC. 12	11/29/90	33°31'N 90°15'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	58	15C	SCHLATER	GREENWOOD & SHELLMOUND	T19N R1W SEC. 13	11/29/90	33°30'N 90°15'W
TRIBBLE	LEFLORE	12		GREENWOOD	MONEY	T21N R1E SEC. 20		33°40'N 90°12'W
TRIBBLE	LEFLORE	28		GREENWOOD	MONEY	T21N R1E SEC. 20		33°40'N 90°13'W
HAWKINS	LEFLORE	33	12C	SCHLATER	BEAR CUT BAYOU	T20N R2W SEC. 34	09/20/90	33°33'N 90°23'W
KOLLE, R	LEFLORE	109	10C	SCHLATER	SHELL MOUND	T20N R2W SEC. 23	05/04/90	33°35'N 90°22'W
UPCHURCH / PRESTRIDGE	LEFLORE	250	11C	SCHLATER	BEAR CUT BAYOU	T20N R2W SEC. 22, 26 & 27	10/01/90	33°34'N 90°23'W
SAUNDERS	LEFLORE	15	13C	MOSSY LAKE & SCHLATER	COLONY TOWN	T19N R2W SEC. 20	07/09/90	33°30'N 90°25'W
SAUNDERS	LEFLORE	45	13C	MOSSY LAKE & SCHLATER	COLONY TOWN	T19N R2W SEC. 20	07/09/90	33°30'N 90°25'W
GRAHAM, T.	NEWTON	38	10C	not available	DECATUR	T6N R12E SEC. 3 & 4	06/08/92	32°23'N 89°03'W
TRAINOR, E. L.	QUITMAN	6	16C	CROWDER	CROWDER	T27N R1W SEC. 12 & 13	01/01/98	34°13'N 90°14'W
MOSES	SUNFLOWER	25			DREW	T22N R4W SEC. 1		
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	40	16C	CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 11		33°40'N 90°34'W
DAVIS, HIRAM	TALLAHATCHIE	17	13C	PHILIPP	MONEY	T22N R1E SEC. 29	02/15/90	33°44'N 90°12'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	8	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°59'N 90°12'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	6	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°58'N 90°12'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	6	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°58'N 90°12'W
HARRIS, W.L.	TALLA, GRENA.	389	10C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T23N R2E SEC. 35 & 36; T22N R2E SEC. 1	04/28/89	33°48'N 90°03'W
HARRIS, W.L.	TALLAHATCHIE	40	10C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T23N R2E SEC. 34	04/28/89	33°48'N 90°04'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	42	16C	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T25N R1E SEC. 26 & 27		34°00'N 90°10'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	416	16C	PHILLIP	PHILIPP & TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 36; T23N R1E SEC. 1 & 12		33°53'N 90°08'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	7	16C	PHILLIP	PHILIPP	T23N R1E SEC. 21		33°50'N 90°12'W
MACKAY / GASTON, J.	TALLAHATCHIE	81	11C	CROWDER & TUTWILER	CROWDER	T25N R1W SEC. 12	11/02/90	34°02'N 90°14'W
MILAM	TALLAHATCHIE	3		PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 11	10/22/98	33°57'N 90°09'W
MILAM	TALLAHATCHIE	40		PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 12	10/22/98	33°57'N 90°09'W
SHOOK	TALLAHATCHIE	35	15C	PHILIPP	PAYNES	T24N R2E SEC. 17	07/14/95	33°57'N 90°06'W
BENSON	UNION	76		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	1		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	2		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 20 & 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	26		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17 & 20	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°13'W
BENSON	UNION	6		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	2		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°12'W
HARRIS, W.L.	WEBS., CHOC.	515	10C	not available	EUPORA & SAPA	T19N R10E SEC. 9, 10 & 15	04/28/89	33°31'N 89°14'W
HOLLAND / BOONE	YALOBUSHA	37		GRENADA	SCOBIE	T25N R4W SEC. 36		33°59'N 89°49'W
58 CONSERV. EASEMENTS IN 14 COUNTIES		4,368	ACRES					

FmHA FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
HESTER, T. JR.	BOLIVAR	4		PACE	SHELBY	T24N R6W SEC. 3		33°59'N 90°48'W
STATEN	GRENADA	190	12C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T22N R2E SEC. 17 & 20	07/14/95	33°45'N 90°06'W
KOLLEE, R	LEFLORE	191	10C	SCHLATER	SHELL MOUND	T20N R2W SEC. 23	05/04/90	33°53'N 90°22'W
McCLATCHY	MARSHALL	124	12C	TYRO	MARIANNA	T4S R3W SEC. 22		34°43'N 89°30'W
TRAINOR, E. L.	QUITMAN	3		TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 13 & 14	01/01/98	34°12'N 90°15'W
TRAINOR, E. L.	QUITMAN	16		CROWDER & TUTWILER	CROWDER & LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 13	01/01/98	34°12'N 90°15'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	1		CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 14		
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	7		CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 14		33°40'N 90°34'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	21		CLEVELAND	BOYER & SUNFLOWER	T20N R4W SEC. 32		33°31'N 90°37'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	24		CLEVELAND	BOYER	T19N R4W SEC. 5		33°31'N 90°37'W
DAVIS, HIRAM	TALLAHATCHIE	240	13C	PHILIPP	MONEY	T22N R1E SEC. 29		33°44'N 90°13'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	77	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°58'N 90°12'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	429	16C	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T25N R1E SEC. 25 & 26		34°00'N 90°09'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	168	16C	PHILIPP	PHILIPP	T23N R1E SEC. 20 & 21		33°50'N 90°12'W
MACKAY / GASTON, J.	TALLAHATCHIE	217	11C	CROWDER & TUTWILER	CROWDER & VANCE	T25N R1W SEC. 12	11/02/90	34°03'N 90°15'W
MILAM	TALLAHATCHIE	160		PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 11 & 12	10/22/98	33°57'N 90°09'W
SHOOK	TALLAHATCHIE	160	15C	PHILIPP	PAYNES	T24N R2E SEC. 17	07/14/95	33°56'N 90°06'W
BENSON	UNION	43		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	36		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 20	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°13'W
BENSON	UNION	36		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°13'W
BENSON	UNION	13		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
22 FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS IN 9 COUNTIES		2,160	ACRES					

01/03/02

The majority of the lands in the NMRC are within the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley (MAV), referred to locally as the “Delta” where topography is relatively flat and the soil consists of heavy clay hydric soils that have been subject to extensive clearing and drainage efforts. Originally, these lands were bottomland hardwood forests, comprised of species such as bald cypress, water oak, willow oak, Nuttall oak, overcup oak, water hickory, tupelo gum, red maple, sweet gum, green ash, cottonwood, black willow, and cane.



Photo 1. Aerial view of the Walker Tract of Tallahatchie NWR. BW

Since the NMRC was established in 1989 and assigned administrative responsibility for Dahomey, Tallahatchie, and Coldwater River NWRs, the thrust has been the creation, restoration and enhancement of wetlands on public and private lands. Most of the station’s work has been on properties managed by the Service, but oftentimes, we assist and work with diverse stakeholders such as the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP), the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Delta Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CORP), USDA Forest Service, private and

cooperate landowners, and a local K-12 school’s efforts in providing an outdoor environmental classroom program. Projects with these agencies and organizations are usually done through “Partners Projects” and habitat management agreements. With few exceptions, NMRC’s contributions on projects with these stakeholders consists of constructing earthen levees, installation of water control structures (WCS) and planting bottomland hardwood seedlings. The NMRC complex has grown rapidly, and provides habitat for large concentrations of wintering waterfowl and numerous species of neotropical migrants.

## **Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge**

**Dahomey NWR** is located in Bolivar County, Mississippi in the western part of the NMRC near the Mississippi River (Figure 1 and 3). The Dahomey NWR work area contains 4,005 acres of fee title FmHA properties, 1,554 acres of conservation easements, and 57 acres of floodplain easements (Table 2). In 1990, the Nature Conservancy purchased 9,269 acres from the Allen Gray Estate and leased the land back to the Service for management. In 1993, the Service completed acquisition of Nature Conservancy lands. One additional 162 acre tract was purchased by the MDOT and turned over to the Service in 1991. A 260-acre 16<sup>th</sup> section tract is leased from the West Bolivar School Board bringing the land base total to 9,961 acres.

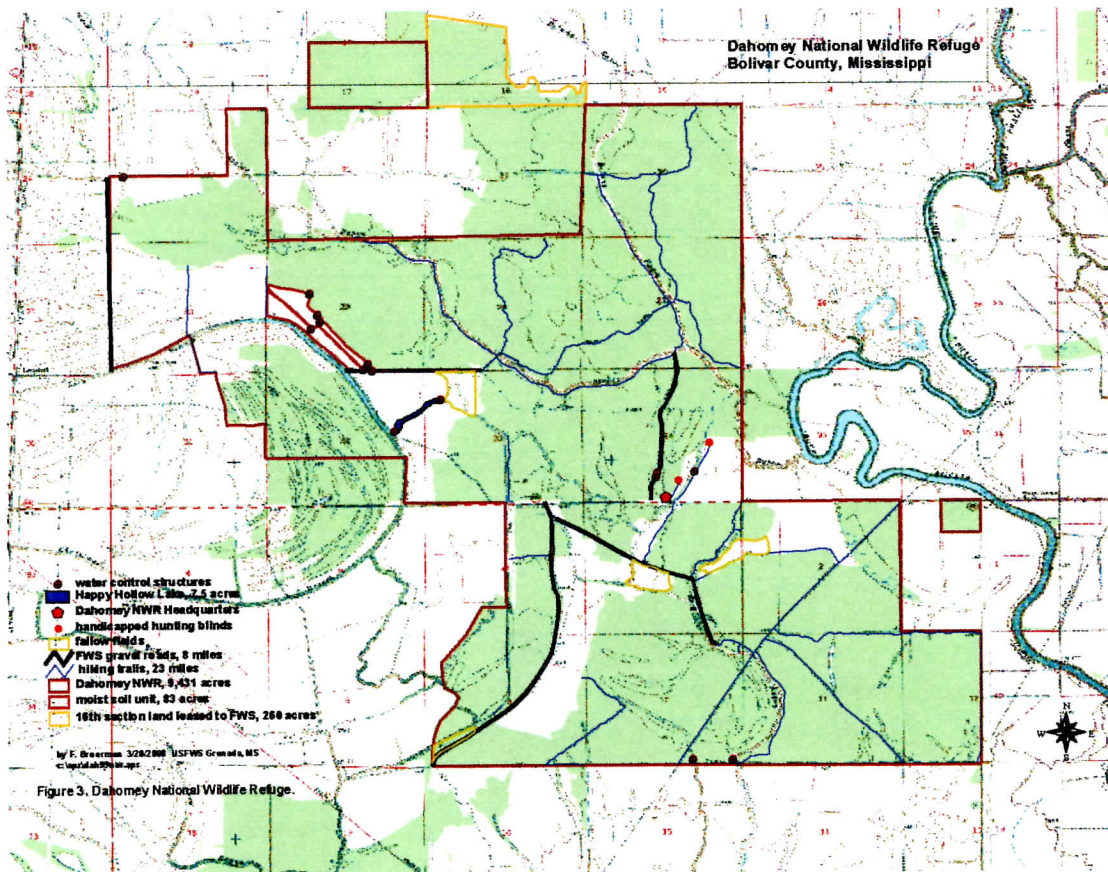
Staffing and management of Dahomey began on a limited basis in 1991. Dahomey is presently staffed by Refuge Manager Alejandro Galvan and Engineering Equipment Operator Don Roby.

Dahomey consists of bottomland hardwood (8,348 acres), fallow field (537 acres), moist soil (275 acres), and agricultural field habitat (531 acres). Dahomey's 8,348 acres of woodlands is the largest contiguous tract of bottomland hardwood habitat occurring outside the Mississippi River main line levee in northwest Mississippi. Dahomey's forest lands are thus extremely valuable to many forms of wildlife. The Lower Mississippi River Valley Joint Venture Team has identified Dahomey as being one of the top five priority sites for wintering waterfowl in the state of Mississippi.

The primary goal of the NMRC is to maintain, manage, enhance, and restore the values and functions of the alluvial habitats within Dahomey NWR. The primary habitat that historically occurred in the alluvial plain of the lower MAV were bottomland hardwoods. Historically, bottomland hardwoods extended hundreds of miles across this ecosystem. These expansive areas of bottomland hardwoods were subject to frequent periods of inundation. However, due to flood protection provided by Mississippi levee and drainage projects most (80%) of this area in the lower MAV was cleared and converted to primarily agricultural fields.

During a 40 year period prior to Service ownership, Dahomey's 8,348 acre hardwood forest was subject to fairly intensive timber harvesting. However, it was never cleared, but instead allowed to naturally regenerate. Dahomey's forest land is a relic of a habitat type that was once dominant throughout the lower MAV. However, stream channelization and levee construction activities that have occurred within and in the vicinity of Dahomey have reduced historical flooding regimes to the point that a significant portion of the habitat within Dahomey is no longer subject to periods of seasonal inundation. Therefore, one of the NMRC's objectives for Dahomey NWR is to restore and manage seasonal hydroperiods within its wetland habitat.

During 1994, the NMRC installed levees, pipes, and water control structures in two streams occurring within Dahomey NWR, which created an approximately 700 acre greentree reservoir. During 1999, the NMRC converted an 85 acre agricultural field into a moist soil impoundment.



**Figure 3. Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge.**

In 2001, a joint venture project with DU was completed with the construction of levees and the installation of water control structures resulting in complete water management of two units totaling 223 acres. We anticipate that on an annual basis, agricultural crops will be grown on one of the units and the other unit will be devoted to a moist soil area. The fields will then be rotated during the next growing season. Also, the NMRC floods rice fields that are farmed by cooperative farmers. When these habitats are flooded during winter months, they provide quality habitat for thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl (primarily mallards, gadwalls, American wigeon, and wood ducks).

The NMRC intends to further its management efforts for waterfowl and other waterbirds by restoring and managing seasonal hydroperiods within more of Dahomey's habitats. For example, the NMRC is planning to develop greentree reservoirs, manage water levels in shrub swamps and construct moist-soil impoundments within more agricultural fields at Dahomey. The forest habitat management plan that was completed in 2001 provides the necessary mechanism for the NMRC to manage forest habitat in a manner that will benefit forest interior neotropical migratory birds.

Table 2. Properties managed Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge.

REFUGE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	ESTATE	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	YEAR ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
<b>Dahomey NWR</b>								
Allen Gray Estate/TNC	BOLIVAR	9,269	Fee Title	CHOCTAW, PACE	BEULAH, LOBDELL	T22N R7W SEC. 17, 19, 22 & 27-34; T21N R7W SEC. 1-4 & 9-12	1993.00	33°42'N 90°55'W
MS Dept of Trans. (DOT)	BOLIVAR	162	Fee Title	CHOCTAW	LOBDELL	T22N R7W SEC. 34	1991.00	33°42'N 90°54'W
West Bolivar Co. School Board	BOLIVAR	260	Lease	CHOCTAW, PACE	BEULAH, LOBDELL	T22N R7W SEC. 16	N/A	33°45'N 90°09'W
<b>DAHOMNEY NWR</b>		<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>9,691</b>					

FmHA FEE TITLE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
CARMICHALE	BOLIVAR	40	14.00	PACE	SHELBY	T24N R6W SEC. 26	07/26/91	33°54'N 90°47'W
GOSS	BOLIVAR	543	17.00	MELLWOOD	ROUND LAKE	T26N R6W SEC. 35 & 36; T25N R6W SEC. 2	07/14/94	34°05'N 90°47'W
HESTER, T. III	BOLIVAR	389	13.00	PACE	PACE	T23N R6W SEC. 1	07/26/91	33°52'N 90°46'W
HOLCOMB, D.	BOLIVAR	40	12.00	CLARKSDALE	DUNCAN	T25N R5W SEC. 13	07/26/91	34°02'N 90°40'W
RAY	BOLIVAR	50	18.00	PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 33	09/27/94	33°59'N 90°49'W
RILEY	BOLIVAR	100	11.00	MOUND BAYOU	MERIGOLD	T23N R5W SEC. 13	07/26/91	33°50'N 90°40'W
WATTS, J.	BOLIVAR	214	16.00	MELLWOOD	ROUND LAKE	T25N R6W SEC. 4	07/31/92	34°04'N 90°50'W
WATTS, J.	BOLIVAR	81	16.00	MELLWOOD	ROUND LAKE	T26N R6W SEC. 33	07/31/92	34°04'N 90°49'W
BOWLING	SUNFLOWER	170	14.00	BAIRD	MOOREHEAD	T19N R3W SEC. 29	12/06/91	33°29'N 90°31'W
LINDSEY, L.	SUNFLOWER	160	13.00	CLEVELAND	BOYER	T20N R4W SEC. 17	07/26/91	33°34'N 90°38'W
LINDSEY, L.	SUNFLOWER	40	13.00	CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 14	07/26/91	33°40'N 90°35'W
LINDSEY, L.	SUNFLOWER	204	13.00	CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T22N R4W SEC. 3	07/26/91	33°42'N 90°35'W
POVALL / KITCHENS	SUNFLOWER	180	11.00	BAIRD	MOOREHEAD	T19N R4W SEC. 25	11/06/90	33°27'N 90°33'W
POVALL / KITCHENS	SUNFLOWER	422	11.00	BAIRD	INVERNESS	T17N R4W SEC. 24 & 25	11/06/90	33°18'N 90°33'W
POVALL / KITCHENS	SUNFLOWER	80	11.00	BAIRD	INVERNESS	T17N R4W SEC. 13 & 18	11/06/90	33°19'N 90°33'W
WALKER	SUNFLOWER	42	10.00	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	T21N R4W SEC. 29	10/02/90	33°38'N 90°38'W
PATTERSON / WHITTEN	SUNFLOWER	46	15.00	SUMNER	ROME	T24N R3W SEC. 15 & 22	09/01/94	33°56'N 90°29'W
WILKINS	SUNFLOWER	1,204	12.00	SUMNER	ROME	T24N R3W SEC. 35 & 36; T23N R3W SEC. 1	05/02/91	33°54'N 90°22'W
<b>18 FEE TITLE PROPERTIES IN 2 COUNTIES</b>		<b>4,005</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

FmHA CONSERVATION EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
BALDUCCI	BOLIVAR	12	19C	MOUND BAYOU	MOUND BAYOU	T24N R5W SEC. 6	10/13/95	33°58'N 90°45'W
BALDUCCI	BOLIVAR	12	19C	PACE	SHELBY	T24N R6W SEC. 1	10/13/95	33°58'N 90°46'W
BASS, B.H.	BOLIVAR	69	15C	PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 33	04/21/92	33°59'N 90°49'W
BASS, B.H.	BOLIVAR	277	15C	MELLWOOD	LACONIA, ROUND LAKE & SHELBY LAKE	T25N R7W SEC. 25 & 36	04/21/92	34°00'N 90°52'W
BASS, B.H.	BOLIVAR	723	15C	MELLWOOD	LACONIA & ROUND LAKE	T25N R7W SEC. 23 & 24	04/21/92	34°01'N 90°52'W
CLIFTON, R.	BOLIVAR	97	10C	CHOCTAW	LOBDELL	T21N R7W SEC. 28	12/18/89	33°08'N 90°55'W
HESTER, T. JR.	BOLIVAR	55		PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 34		33°59'N 90°48'W
HESTER, T. JR.	BOLIVAR	35		PACE	SHELBY	T25N R6W SEC. 34		33°59'N 90°48'W
McCLURE, J.	BOLIVAR	40		CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	T21N R4W SEC. 26		33°47' N 90°43'W
McCLURE, J.	BOLIVAR	40		CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	T21N R5W SEC. 33		33°38'N 90°41'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	4	11C	MARKS	LULA	T30N R3W SEC. 34		34°25'N 90°29'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	52	11C	MARKS	LULA	T29N R3W SEC. 10 & 15		34°22'N 90°29'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	31	11C	MARKS	LULA	T29N R3W SEC. 10 & 11		34°23'N 90°29'W
ALLEN	COAHOMA	30	11C	MARKS, FARRELL	LULA	T29N R3W SEC. 15		34°22'N 90°30'W
SAFLEY / BRADY	COAHOMA	13	10C	MOUND BAYOU	BALTZER	T25N R3W SEC. 32	02/26/90	33°59'N 90°31'W
MOSES	SUNFLOWER	25		MOUND BAYOU	MOUND BAYOU	T22N R4W SEC. 1	08/30/64	33°48'N 90°36'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	40	16C	CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 11		33°40'N 90°34'W
<b>17 CONSERV. EASEMENTS IN 3 COUNTIES</b>		<b>1,554</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

FmHA FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
HESTER, T. JR.	BOLIVAR	4		PACE	SHELBY	T24N R6W SEC. 3		33°59'N 90°48'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	1		CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 14		
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	7		CLEVELAND	RULEVILLE	T21N R4W SEC. 14		33°40'N 90°34'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	21		CLEVELAND	BOYER & SUNFLOWER	T20N R4W SEC. 32		33°31'N 90°37'W
POWELL	SUNFLOWER	24		CLEVELAND	BOYER	T19N R4W SEC. 5		33°31'N 90°37'W
<b>4 FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS IN 2 COUNTIES</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

01/03/01

Dahomey NWR has had a hunting program since 1993. Numerous sportsmen participate in deer, turkey, squirrel, and rabbit hunts that the NMRC has made available at Dahomey. Several trophy quality white-tail deer have been harvested at Dahomey. Due to this, Dahomey has developed a reputation for having quality deer and become a favorite hunting place for many deer hunters. During 1998, for the first time, the NMRC established a waterfowl hunting season at Dahomey. There has been a substantial amount of participation in waterfowl hunting opportunities at Dahomey. Dahomey is open to waterfowl hunting three days a week, mornings only.

Dahomey's 8,348 acre bottomland hardwood forest provides important habitat for numerous species of neotropical migratory birds such as Mississippi kite, summer tanager, ruby-throated hummingbird, wood thrush, hermit thrush, yellow-billed cuckoo, blue-gray gnatcatcher, great-crested flycatcher, eastern wood-pewee, Acadian flycatcher, hooded warbler, prothonotary warbler, Swainson's warbler, white-eyed vireo, and red-eyed vireo (Photo 2). Dahomey NWR has been identified by Partners in Flight as a priority area in the lower MAV for rare or declining neotropical migratory birds. As such, Dahomey is a landmark for bird watchers.

Flocks of twenty or more wild turkeys are seen regularly during the fall and winter on Dahomey NWR. In the winter, six species of woodpeckers can be seen along with barred, great horned, screech, and short-eared owls. Dahomey NWR is truly an island of forested wetlands in a sea of agricultural lands and represents a vestige of natural habitats in the northwestern part of the Mississippi.

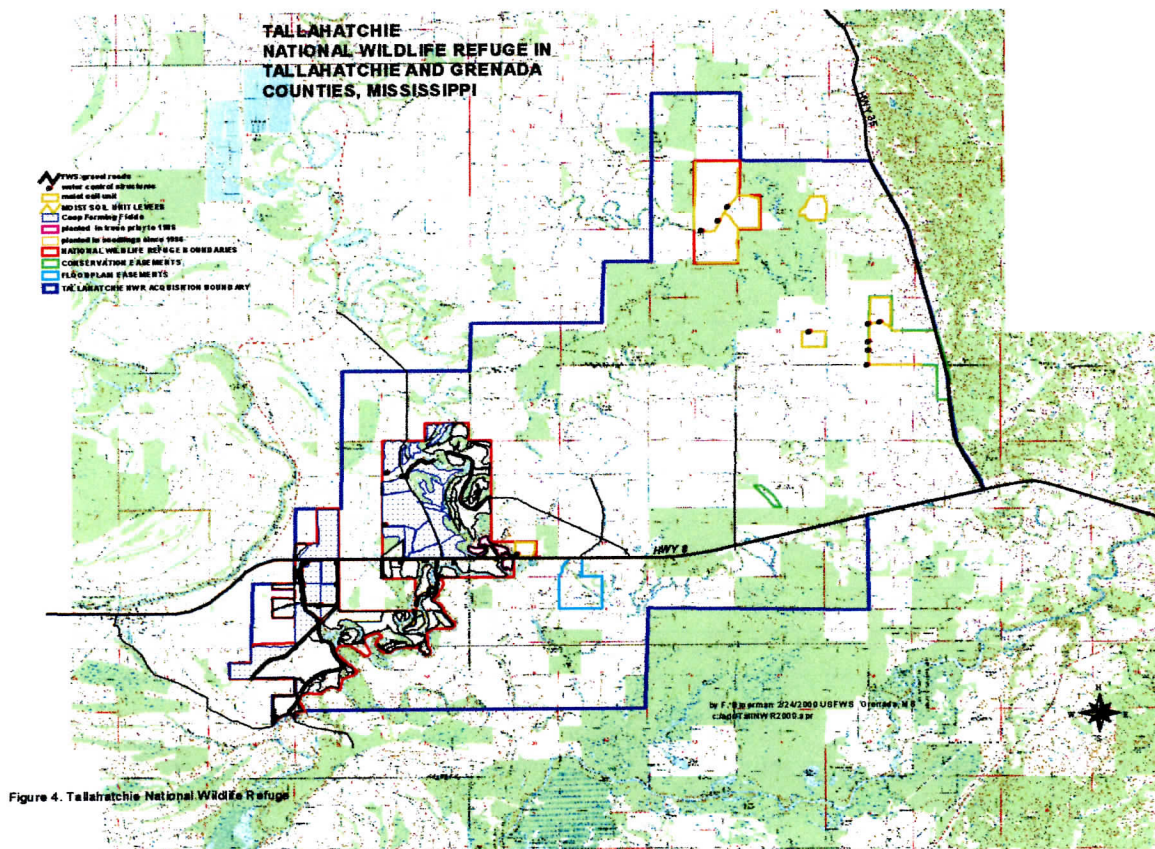


Photo 2. A hermit thrush using bottomland hardwood forest habitat at Dahomey NWR. RR

## Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Until 2000, **Tallahatchie NWR** consisted of the Bear Lake and Black Bayou Units . In 2000, these two units were officially separated into two individual refuges. The former Bear Lake Unit retained the name of Tallahatchie NWR. The former Black Bayou Unit is now Coldwater River NWR.

The Tallahatchie NWR (Photo 3) is a 4,083 acre patchwork of cultivated farmlands, old fields and small scattered tracts of bottomland hardwood forest bisected by the meandering Tippecanoe Bayou which is its center piece (Figure 4). The refuge work area consists of 3,227 acres of fee title properties, 2,649 acres of conservation easements and 1,832 acres of floodplain easements (Figures 1 and Table 3). The old oxbows and low-lying fields along Tippecanoe Bayou flood each winter and hold large concentrations of waterfowl. The unit also supports a healthy deer herd. Wood ducks, eastern screech owl, barred owl, great-horned owl, loggerhead shrikes, and red-tailed hawks are common year-round residents. Blue grosbeaks, dickcissels, and painted buntings can be seen during the summer. Most of the agriculture land (628 acres) is devoted to soybeans, corn, and rice.



**Figure 4. Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge**

Table 3. Properties managed by Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge.

REFUGUE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	ESTATE	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	YEAR ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
<b>TALLAHATCHIE NWR</b>								
Walker Tract	TALLAHATCHIE	557	Fee Title	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T23N R2E SEC. 21, 22 & 28	1991.00	30°50'N 90°05'W
John Whitten	GRENADA, TALLAHATCHIE	509	Fee Title	PHILIPP	PHILIPP	T22N R1E SEC.13 & 24; T22N R2E SEC. 18	1992.00	33°45'N 90°08'W
John Hancock	GRENADA, TALLAHATCHIE	1,361	Fee Title	PHILIPP GREENWOOD, PHILIPP	PHILIPP	T22N R1E SEC. 1, 12 & 13; T22N R2E SEC. 7 & 18	1992.00	33°47'N 90°08'W
Chicago Mills/DOT	TALLAHATCHIE	1,656	Fee Title		MONEY, PHILIPP	T22N R1E SEC. 14, 22-27 & 34	1997.00	33°45'N 90°09'W
<b>TALLAHATCHIE NWR</b>	<b>TOTAL ACRES (Fee Title only)</b>		<b>4,083</b>					

FmHA FEE TITLE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
GILLON	GRENADA	245	11.00	GRENADA	GRENADA	T22N R5E SEC. 21	07/14/93	33°45'N 89°46'W
GWIN	LEFLORE	343	16.00	SUMNER	GLENDORA	T22N R2W SEC. 13 & 24	02/19/92	33°45'N 90°21'W
HENSON	LEFLORE	165	19.00	MOSSY LAKE	MONTGOMERY	T17N R1W SEC. 19	07/15/92	33°19'N 90°20'W
HENSON / A.C.O.E.	LEFLORE	275	no	MOSSY LAKE	MONTGOMERY	T17N R1W SEC. 19	?	33°19'N 90°20'W
KIMBROUGH, A.M.	LEFLORE	40	18.00	MOSSY LAKE	MONTGOMERY	T17N R1W SEC. 18	04/18/92	33°19'N 90°20'W
MILLICAN, H.	LEFLORE	2	17.00	SEVEN PINE	SIDON	T18N R1E SEC. 30	03/05/92	33°23'N 90°14'W
MILLICAN, H.	LEFLORE	76	17.00	SEVEN PINE	SIDON	T18N R1E SEC. 31	03/05/92	33°23'N 90°14'W
ROBERTSON	LEFLORE	655	14.00	GREENWOOD	GREENWOOD	T20N R1E SEC. 24 & 25	10/02/90	33°34'N 90°08'W
SCOTT	LEFLORE	226	20.00	SUMNER	BROOKS	T22N R2W SEC. 8	09/01/94	33°47'N 90°25'W
SCOTT	LEFLORE	80	20.00	SUMNER	BROOKS	T22N R2W SEC. 3	09/01/94	33°48'N 90°23'W
SCOTT	LEFLORE	90	20.00	SUMNER	BROOKS	T22N R2W SEC. 9	09/01/94	33°47'N 90°24'W
JAMES	TALLAHATCHIE	160	10.00	PHILLIP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 36	10/11/90	33°54'N 90°08'W
PENNINGTON	TALLAHATCHIE	470	17.00	SUMNER	WEBB & VANCE	T25N R2W SEC.36		33°59'N 90°21'W
PENNINGTON	TALLAHATCHIE	360	17.00	TUTWILER	TUTWILER & VANCE	T25N R2W SEC. 26		34°00'N 90°22'W
PENNINGTON	TALLAHATCHIE	40	17.00	TUTWILER	VANCE	T25N R1W SEC. 2		34°03'N 90°15'W
<b>15 FEE TITLE PROPERTIES IN 3 COUNTIES</b>		<b>3,227</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

FmHA CONSERVATION EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
CALHOUN / DANCE	CARROLL	149	10C	COILA	PEACHAHALA CREEK	T17N R5E SEC. 31 & 32		33°17'N 89°47'W
CALHOUN / DANCE	CARROLL	57	10C	COILA	PEACHAHALA CREEK	T16N R5E SEC. 6		33°16'N 89°49'W
CALHOUN / DANCE	CARROLL	16	10C	COILA	PEACHAHALA CREEK	T17N R5E SEC. 31		33°17'N 89°48'W
STATEN	GRENADA	74	12C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T22N R2E SEC. 17 & 20		33°45'N 90°06'W
HARRIS, W.L.	GRENADA	18	10C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T22N R2E SEC. 10		33°46'N 90°04'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	11	15C	GREENWOOD	GREENWOOD	T19N R1W SEC. 12	11/29/90	33°31'N 90°14'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	77	15C	GREENWOOD & SCHLATER	SHELLMOUND	T19N R1W SEC. 12	11/29/90	33°31'N 90°15'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	17	15C	SCHLATER	SHELLMOUND	T19N R1W SEC. 12	11/29/90	33°31'N 90°15'W
MOOR, R.B.	LEFLORE	58	15C	SCHLATER	GREENWOOD & SHELLMOUND	T19N R1W SEC. 13	11/29/90	33°30'N 90°15'W
TRIBBLE	LEFLORE	12		GREENWOOD	MONEY	T21N R1E SEC. 20		33°40'N 90°12'W
TRIBBLE	LEFLORE	28		GREENWOOD	MONEY	T21N R1E SEC. 20		33°40'N 90°13'W
HAWKINS	LEFLORE	33	12C	SCHLATER	BEAR CUT BAYOU	T20N R2W SEC. 34	09/20/90	33°33'N 90°23'W
KOLLE, R	LEFLORE	109	10C	SCHLATER	SHELL MOUND	T20N R2W SEC. 23	05/04/90	33°35'N 90°22'W
UPCHURCH / PRESTRIDGE	LEFLORE	250	11C	SCHLATER	BEAR CUT BAYOU	T20N R2W SEC. 22, 26 & 27	10/01/90	33°34'N 90°23'W
SAUNDERS	LEFLORE	15	13C	MOSSY LAKE & SCHLATER	COLONY TOWN	T19N R2W SEC. 20	07/09/90	33°30'N 90°25'W
SAUNDERS	LEFLORE	45	13C	SCHLATER	COLONY TOWN	T19N R2W SEC. 20	07/09/90	33°30'N 90°25'W
GRAHAM, T.	NEWTON	38	10C	not available	DECATUR	T6N R12E SEC. 3 & 4	06/08/92	32°23'N 89°03'W
DAVIS, HIRAM	TALLAHATCHIE	17	13C	PHILIPP	MONEY	T22N R1E SEC. 29	02/15/90	33°44'N 90°12'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	8	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°59'N 90°12'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	6	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°58'N 90°12'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	6	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°58'N 90°12'W
HARRIS, W.L.	TALLA, GRENA.	389	10C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T23N R2E SEC. 35 & 36; T22N R2E SEC. 1	04/28/89	33°48'N 90°03'W
HARRIS, W.L.	TALLAHATCHIE	40	10C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T23N R2E SEC. 34	04/28/89	33°48'N 90°04'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	42	16C	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T25N R1E SEC. 26 & 27		34°00'N 90°10'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	416	16C	PHILLIP	PHILIPP & TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 36; T23N R1E SEC. 1 & 12		33°53'N 90°08'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	7	16C	PHILLIP	PHILIPP	T23N R1E SEC. 21		33°50'N 90°12'W
MACKEY / GASTON, J.	TALLAHATCHIE	81	11C	CROWDER & TUTWILER	CROWDER	T25N R1W SEC. 12	11/02/90	34°02'N 90°14'W
MILAM	TALLAHATCHIE	3		PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 11	10/22/98	33°57'N 90°09'W
MILAM	TALLAHATCHIE	40		PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 12	10/22/98	33°57'N 90°09'W
SHOOK	TALLAHATCHIE	35	15C	PHILIPP	PAYNES	T24N R2E SEC. 17	07/14/95	33°57'N 90°06'W
HARRIS, W.L.	WEBS, CHOC.	515	10C	not available	EUPORA & SAPA	T19N R10E SEC. 9, 10 & 15	04/28/89	33°31'N 89°14'W
HOLLAND / BOONE	YALOBUSHA	37		GRENADA	SCOBAY	T25N R4W SEC.36		33°59'N 89°49'W
<b>32 CONSERV. EASEMENTS IN 8 COUNTIES</b>		<b>2,649</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

FmHA FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
STATEN	GRENADA	190	12C	PHILIPP	CASCILLA	T22N R2E SEC. 17 & 20	07/14/95	33°45'N 90°06'W
KOLLEE, R	LEFLORE	191	10C	SCHLATER	SHELL MOUND	T20N R2W SEC. 23	05/04/90	33°53'N 90°22'W
DAVIS, HIRAM	TALLAHATCHIE	240	13C	PHILIPP	MONEY	T22N R1E SEC. 29		33°44'N 90°13'W
DENMAN	TALLAHATCHIE	77	14C	PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 5		33°58'N 90°12'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	429	16C	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T25N R1E SEC. 25 & 26		34°00'N 90°09'W
MABUS	TALLAHATCHIE	168	16C	PHILIPP	PHILIPP	T23N R1E SEC. 20 & 21		33°50'N 90°12'W
MACKEY / GASTON, J.	TALLAHATCHIE	217	11C	CROWDER & TUTWILER	CROWDER & VANCE	T25N R1W SEC. 12	11/02/90	34°03'N 90°15'W
MILAM	TALLAHATCHIE	160		PHILIPP	TIPPO	T24N R1E SEC. 11 & 12	10/22/98	33°57'N 90°09'W
SHOOK	TALLAHATCHIE	160	15C	PHILIPP	PAYNES	T24N R2E SEC. 17	07/14/95	33°57'N 90°06'W
<b>10 FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS IN 4 COUNTIES</b>		<b>1,832</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

01/03/02

Just south of the refuge lies the 9,483 acre Malmaison Wildlife Management Area which is managed by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

When these refuge lands were originally acquired by the Service, agriculture production was the primary land use. In 2002, only 15% of the refuge was in agriculture production. Twenty-five percent of the crops produced were left on the ground for wildlife through the Services Cooperative farming program. Most of the refuge has been reforested through planting efforts by NMRC staff.

Tallahatchie NWR has a popular hunting program. Hunters pursue large-antlered white-tailed deer, squirrels, rabbits, ducks, and feral hogs. Youth hunts for both deer and waterfowl are heavily promoted on the refuge. The landing on Tippo Bayou provides boat access to hunters and fishermen alike.

Currently the Refuge is staffed by NMRC.



Photo 3. Entrance sign to Tallahatchie NWR located on U.S. Highway 8. SG

## COLDWATER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Coldwater River NWR**, formerly the Black Bayou Unit of Tallahatchie NWR, consists of 2,374 acres of fee title lands (Figure 5). Over half of this acreage is abandoned old fields of low, poorly-drained soils which flood most winters. There are 3,452 acres of fee title FmHA properties, 165 acres of conservation easements, and 271 acres of floodplain easements in the Coldwater River NWR work area (Figure 1 and Table 4). Several hundred acres have been reforested with hardwoods, but due to the wet nature of the area, willow and button bush thickets now dominate many acres. This area holds thousands of mallards during annual winter flooding. No cooperative farming was used on Coldwater River NWR during 2002.

A 495-acre portion of Coldwater River NWR contains twenty-five ponds that were previously managed as a commercial catfish operation (Photo 4). These ponds range in size from 9 to 21 acres, and are now managed for shorebirds, ducks and marsh birds. Thirty-four species of shorebirds have been recorded here.

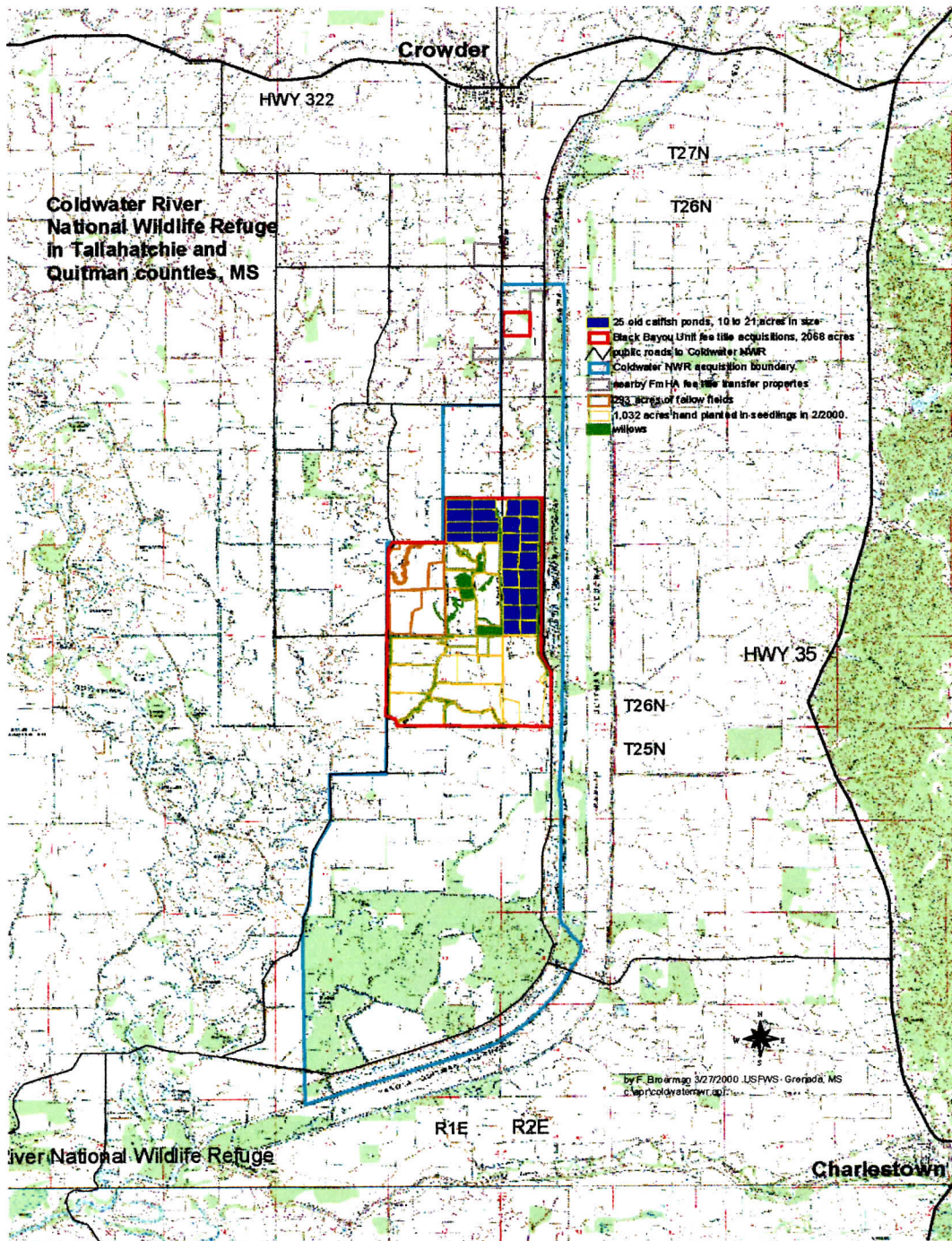
Fifteen of these are commonly seen at the ponds from March - June and from July - October. Peregrine falcon, least tern, black tern, and wood stork occasionally pass through the refuge in migration. Bald eagles are seen regularly in winter and occasionally a golden eagle is seen. Marsh birds such as sedge wren, marsh wren, common yellowthroat, swamp sparrow, sora, and king rail are regularly seen or heard at Coldwater River NWR. American bittern, least bittern, Lincoln's sparrow, LeConte's sparrow, and Virginia rail are seen less commonly.

Beaver, bobcat, coyote and mink occur on the refuge. Mississippi kites, dickcissels, warbling vireos, and painted



Photo 4. Aerial view of the old catfish ponds at Coldwater River NWR. RR

buntings can be seen on the refuge during the summer. During the summer it is not uncommon to see a couple hundred egrets, ibis, and herons feeding in the ponds. Other waders such as snowy egrets, little blue herons, black-crowned night-heron, yellow-crowned night-heron, white ibis, and tricolored heron are occasionally seen. In the evenings during August and September, large flocks of wading birds, after having spent the day foraging at scattered locations in the vicinity, can be seen flying into roost in those ponds which are filled with willow. Least flycatchers nested here during the summers of 1996 and 1997. This is the only location where this species is known to nest in Mississippi.



**Figure 5. Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge.**

The twenty-five ponds and nearby low-lying fallow fields of the refuge have a history of attracting large concentrations of waterfowl in the winter. The refuge provides a juxtaposition of habitats

not commonly found in the lower MRAV. Coldwater River's mix of habitats and proximity to the migration corridors of the Little Tallahatchie River and the Panola-Quitman Floodway attract a high diversity of migrant waterbirds all year round. Coldwater River NWR is currently staffed with a Refuge Manager. Robert Barkley was hired as the manager during 2000.

Table 4. Properties managed by Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge.

REFUGE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	ESTATE	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	YEAR ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
<b>COLDWATER RIVER NWR</b>								
Travelers Insurance	QUITMAN, TALLAHATCHIE	1,730	Fee Title	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T26N R2E SEC. 30 & 31; T26N R1E SEC. 25 & 36	1991.00	34°5'N 90°08'W
Shiele Tract	TALLAHATCHIE	40	Fee Title	CROWDER	CROWDER	T26N R2E SEC. 7	1996.00	34°8'N 90°08'W
Warwick Tract	TALLAHATCHIE	306	Fee Title	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T25N R1E SEC. 23 & 24 T25 R2E SEC. 18 & 19	2001.00	
Duck Ponds Inc.	QUITMAN, TALLAHATCHIE	298	Fee Title	CROWDER	FISH HOOK LAKE	T26N R2E SEC. 19; T26N R1E SEC. 24	1996.00	34°6'N 90°08'W
<b>COLDWATER RIVER NWR TOTAL ACRES</b>		<b>2,374</b>						

FmHA FEE TITLE PROPERTIES								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
SMITH, E.	MARSHALL	232	10.00	POTTS CAMP	MALONE	T5S R2W SEC. 28 & 29		34°37'N 89°25'W
WHALEY	MARSHALL	437	11.00	POTTS CAMP	BETHLEHEM	T6S R1W SEC. 6 & 7; T6S R2W SEC. 1		34°35'N 89°21'W
CASTLEBERRY	TALLAHATCHIE	94	12.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T26N R2E SEC. 7	11/01/93	34°07'N 90°07'W
BUTLER	QUITMAN	245		TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 11, 12 & 14	04/01/99	34°13'N 90°15'W
SAVAGE, E.	QUITMAN	59	10.00	TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 11	11/06/90	34°13'N 90°16'W
SAVAGE, P.	QUITMAN	40	13.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T26N R1E SEC. 1	09/01/93	34°08'N 90°08'W
SAVAGE, P.	QUITMAN	20	13.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T26N R1E SEC. 12	09/01/93	34°07'N 90°08'W
STARR, R.	QUITMAN	750	12.00	SLEDGE	CRENSHAW SOUTH	T8S R10W SEC. 1 & 2	06/02/91	34°25'N 90°13'W
STARR, R.	QUITMAN	320	12.00	SLEDGE	CRENSHAW SOUTH	T7S R10W SEC. 23	06/02/91	34°27'N 90°13'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	382	11.00	TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T26N R1W SEC. 2 & 11	11/06/90	34°09'N 90°15'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	219	11.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T27N R1E SEC. 19 & 20	11/06/90	34°12'N 90°14'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	188	11.00	CROWDER	CROWDER	T27N R1E SEC. 20, 21 & 29	11/06/90	34°11'N 90°12'W
TRAINOR / BOYD	QUITMAN	228	11.00	TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 27	11/06/90	34°10'N 90°17'W
FOOSHEE / SMITH	UNION	104	10.00	NEW ALBANY	NEW ALBANY WEST	T7S R2E SEC. 32 & 33	07/22/94	34°26'N 89°06'W
FOOSHEE / SMITH	UNION	134	10.00	NEW ALBANY	ETTA, NEW ALBANY WEST	T7S R2E SEC. 31 & 32	07/22/94	34°26'N 89°07'W
<b>15 FEE TITLE PROPERTIES IN 4 COUNTIES</b>		<b>3,452</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

FmHA CONSERVATION EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
BELL / CRAB	ALCORN	40	10C	WALNUT	CHALYBEATE	T2S R5E SEC. 29	11/25/91	34°53'N 88°47'W
TURNER / TALLEY	ALCORN	8	11C	CORINTH	KUSSUTH NORTH	T1S R6E SEC. 35	02/22/95	34°57'N 88°37'W
TRAINOR, E. L.	QUITMAN	6	16C	CROWDER	CROWDER	T27N R1W SEC. 12 & 13	01/01/98	34°13'N 90°14'W
BENSON	UNION	76		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	1		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	2		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 20 & 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	26		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17 & 20	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°13'W
BENSON	UNION	6		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	2		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°12'W
<b>9 CONSERV. EASEMENTS IN 3 COUNTIES</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

FmHA FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS								
NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	Tract #	15' QUAD	7.5' QUAD	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DATE ACQUIRED	LAT/LON
McCLATCHY	MARSHALL	124	12C	TYRO	MARIANNA	T4S R3W SEC. 22		34°43'N 89°30'W
TRAINOR, E. L.	QUITMAN	3		TUTWILER	LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 13 & 14	01/01/98	34°12'N 90°15'W
TRAINOR, E. L.	QUITMAN	16		CROWDER & TUTWILER	CROWDER & LAMBERT	T27N R1W SEC. 13	01/01/98	34°12'N 90°15'W
BENSON	UNION	43		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 17	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°12'W
BENSON	UNION	36		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 20	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°13'W
BENSON	UNION	36		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°28'N 89°13'W
BENSON	UNION	13		NEW ALBANY	ETTA	T7S R1E SEC. 21	07/01/99	34°27'N 89°12'W
<b>7 FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS IN 3 COUNTIES</b>		<b>271</b>	<b>ACRES</b>					

01/03/02

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of eight volunteers contributed 983 hours assisting the staff at NMRC.
- PL Gard, a member of the Promises Team, was selected as the Wildlife and Habitat Goals Team Leader.
- EO Jones was appointed Chairman of the Region 4 Wage Grade Committee and was instrumental in developing Standardized Position Descriptions for Wage Grade employees in the Region.
- PL Gard, RM Barkley, EO Jones, and volunteer Diana Jones assisted staff at Pvt. John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, MS, with their Centennial Celebration/Open House. The Keynote speaker was U.S. Senator Thad Cochran.
- WB Woods participated in the Western Canada Cooperative Banding Program banding ducks in Alberta from August 2nd to August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- From January to May and again from October to January, major flooding occurred in the NMRC work area. Access roads to Coldwater River NWR and the northern portion of Tallahatchie NWR were under water much of the time with access available only by boat. Major damages occurred to refuges and cost estimates to rehabilitate roads and parking areas were submitted to the Region.
- Due primarily to widespread flooding and moderate temperatures, waterfowl numbers were significantly lower than in previous years with peak numbers of 27,120 occurring on January 8.
- PL Gard was elected Team Leader of the Central Gulf Ecosystem Team.
- More effort was directed at NMRC's wood duck nest box program than in the past and use increased over previous years with 86% of the available boxes used at least once by wood ducks.
- EO Jones attended the first Maintenance Workshop for Wage Grade Professionals at the NCTC.

**Climatic Highlights:** Weather conditions in 2002 ended a three-year drought. Heavy rainfall in November and December, 2001, resulted in widespread flooding and by January 1, 2002, internal access roads on all three station refuges were closed and remained closed until May. Periodic heavy rains occurred throughout the summer, interrupted by unusually high temperatures. The remnants of Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili moved through the NMRC work area in late September/early October, our historic low rainfall period, and produced more than 14 inches of heavy rains that again flooded roads on Coldwater River and Tallahatchie NWRs. This flooding continued through year's end. The total rainfall for 2002 in Jackson, MS, 100 miles south of NMRC, was 63.5 inches which is 24% above normal.

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## Monitoring and Studies

### *1a. Surveys and Censuses*

The following are significant wildlife related activities that took place during 2002 on lands administered by the NMRC.

- WB Woods conducted aerial waterfowl surveys on NMRC properties this past year. Surveys were conducted once a month October to December and twice a month in January and February. Flights were conducted at low altitude (approximately 300 feet). Due to high water levels throughout the Delta and mild temperature throughout the region, waterfowl numbers were significantly lower than previous years. Peak numbers of 27,120 birds occurred on January 8, 2002. Peak usage occurred at the Walker Tract and Coldwater River NWR. Table 5 summarizes the results of the surveys.
- WB Woods and volunteer Juchheim conducted calling frog surveys at both Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs. Surveys were conducted in early spring, late spring and summer, and detected a total of 10 species (9 species on Dahomey and 8 species on Tallthatchie).
- WB Woods ground-truthed 5 frog survey routes throughout Mississippi as part of the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP). A total of 19 of the 62 established routes have been ground-truthed. Volunteers conducted surveys along 13 of these routes. These data are entered into the national database and are used to analyze population trends across the eastern half of North America.
- WB Woods and volunteer Juchheim conducted four malformed amphibian surveys on Dahomey (3) and Tallahatchie (1) in May and June. At each site, 66-141 newly metamorphosed frogs were captured, measured and examined for any abnormality. Any individual displaying an abnormality was held in a separate container and later preserved. All "normal" individuals were released at the capture site. Table 6 presents the survey results.

Table 5: Number of waterfowl on North Mississippi Refuges Complex properties during aerial waterfowl surveys in FY 2002.

Date	Site	Water Condition	Total Waterfowl	Mallard	Northern Shoveler	Northern Pintail	Total	Gadwall	American Wigeon	Other	American Coot	Double-crested Cormorant	Canada Goose	White-fronted goose	Snow Goose
30-Oct	Harris	good	240	90	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	good	630	180	180	0	240	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TAL	fair	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CWR	fair	1530	300	0	150	650	300	0	0	130	0	0	0	0
	Wilkins	fair	480	250	50	0	100	50	0	0	30	0	0	0	0
	DAH	poor	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	good	750	50	275	0	0	275	0	0	0	150	0	0	0
	Robertson	good	65	10	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>3705</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
15-Nov	Harris	poor	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	fair	569	0	0	0	112	224	224	0	0	0	9	0	0
	TAL	poor	9	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CWR	fair	5830	877	292	292	292	1170	0	0	403	0	4	500	2000
	Wilkins	fair	445	303	50	0	0	52	0	20	20	0	0	0	0
	DAH	poor	34	31	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	good	600	33	0	13	0	504	0	0	0	50	0	0	0
	Robertson	poor	150	20	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>7640</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>2076</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2000</b>
20-Dec	Harris	excellent	47	30	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	excellent	3022	982	0	75	1500	450	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TAL	excellent	185	30	0	0	0	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CWR	excellent	5115	2834	225	1350	0	706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wilkins	fair	801	411	75	75	150	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	DAH	good	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	excellent	480	0	0	0	0	460	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
	Robertson	good	235	58	0	28	75	20	18	0	20	0	16	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>9891</b>	<b>4345</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1725</b>	<b>1887</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
8-Jan	Harris	good	339	297	17	17	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	excellent	6100	1830	0	305	2135	1525	305	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TAL	excellent	971	686	0	35	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
	CWR	excellent	16530	5775	1650	5775	1650	1650	0	0	10	0	20	0	0
	Wilkins	fair	2314	638	270	270	550	440	66	0	30	0	50	0	0
	DAH	excellent	350	300	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	excellent	325	146	0	0	33	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Robertson	excellent	401	161	0	0	20	170	0	0	30	0	20	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>27330</b>	<b>9833</b>	<b>1937</b>	<b>6402</b>	<b>4396</b>	<b>4181</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>
25-Jan	Harris	excellent	357	72	75	0	50	10	0	150	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	excellent	524	199	0	0	241	20	0	0	64	0	0	0	0
	TAL	excellent	2710	2571	127	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CWR	excellent	8186	2594	458	993	1518	155	0	2121	347	0	0	0	0
	Wilkins	excellent	580	344	0	12	178	0	0	0	46	0	0	0	0
	DAH	excellent	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	excellent	1573	160	157	0	155	1098	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Robertson	excellent	81	52	10	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>14023</b>	<b>6002</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>2154</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
12-Feb	Harris	excellent	28	17	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	excellent	629	484	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	0	0	0
	TAL	excellent	317	277	0	15	0	17	0	4	2	0	2	0	0
	CWR	excellent	3326	677	348	0	20	346	0	1489	446	0	0	0	0
	Wilkins	excellent	1007	239	159	28	318	146	0	4	113	0	0	0	0
	DAH	excellent	730	396	0	180	0	154	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	excellent	46	2	0	0	0	37	0	0	6	1	0	0	0
	Robertson	excellent	56	12	2	0	0	12	0	0	30	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>6139</b>	<b>2104</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
28-Feb	Harris	excellent	61	41	0	0	0	4	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
	Walker	excellent	1058	766	0	48	0	144	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
	TAL	excellent	255	105	0	6	0	8	0	136	0	0	0	0	0
	CWR	excellent	1666	398	43	312	86	298	4	124	400	1	0	0	0
	Wilkins	excellent	2374	514	345	326	0	647	112	0	430	0	0	0	0
	DAH	excellent	1358	631	0	125	100	502	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henson	excellent	859	72	80	50	162	491	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Robertson	excellent	254	11	10	9	0	159	9	0	10	46	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>7885</b>	<b>2538</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>2253</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 6. Malformed Amphibian Survey Results

Date	Site	Species	Number	# Abnormal	% Abnormal	Avg. body length (mm)	Avg. tail length (mm)
5/20/02	TAL-01	Toad species	141	9	6.38 %	11.18	0.06
5/23/02	DAH-02	So. leopard frog	66	2	3.03 %	24.05	13.26
6/7/02	DAH-03	So. leopard frog	71	3	4.23 %	20.44	13.92
6/7/02	DAH-04	Gray treefrog sp.	106	0	0 %	15.57	2.51



Photo 5. Volunteer Karl Juchheim sampling for malformed amphibians at Dahomey NWR. BW

- WB Woods conducted turtle trapping on Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie. Table 7 summarizes species captured by refuge. (Traps captured several non-target species which are also included in the table)

#### ***1b. Studies and Investigations***

- Robert Doster with the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Arkansas conducted surveys of avian distribution and abundance on 11 FmHA properties and on Coldwater River. This is the third year of an on-going study

investigating bird usage of early successional habitats.

- Jason Bried, a graduate student at Mississippi State University, met with WB Woods to visit Tallahatchie and discuss the possibility of conducting wetland research on NMRC properties. It was decided that, rather than use the refuge as one of his study sites, he would collect odonate (dragonfly and damselfly) species from refuge lands to determine what species are present. To date, a state record (*Dromogomphus spoliatus*) and several county records for Tallahatchie and Quitman Counties have been collected.
- WB Woods met with Dr. Ed Keiser, a herpetologist from the University of Mississippi, to discuss and plan a herpetological census which Dr. Keiser will conduct on the Starr FmHA properties (750 and 320 acres) in Quitman County. Due to administrative delays, the project will not begin until 2003.

Table 7. Results of Turtle Trapping on Refuges in the Complex

Species	Coldwater River	Dahomey	Tallahatchie
Alligator snapping turtle, <i>Macrolemys temminckii</i>			X
Common snapping turtle, <i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	X		X
Stinkpot, <i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	X		X
Red-eared slider, <i>Trachemys scripta</i>	X	X	X
Cooter species, <i>Pseudemys</i> sp.	X		
Western spiny softshell, <i>Apalone spinifera</i>	X		X
Three-toed amphiuma, <i>Amphiuma tridactylum</i>			X
Spotted gar, <i>Lepisosteus oculatus</i>	X		X
Longnose gar, <i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>			X
Bowfin, <i>Amia calva</i>	X		
Black bullhead, <i>Ameiurus melas</i>	X		



Photos 6 and 7. Turtles in two traps on Tallahatchie NWR. KJ

- RM Barkley prepared maps and complied data requests for a field trip by JMT Engineering who is under contract with the Federal Highway Administration as part of the TEA 21 program.
- RM Barkley accompanied personnel from Winrock International to Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWR's, eight of our FmHA properties and one state Management Area to conduct background carbon measurements on properties reforested with Environmental Synergy, Inc. funding. This is part of the overall carbon sequestration effort in the Region.

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## 2

### **Habitat Restoration**

#### ***2a. Wetland Restoration: On-refuge***

NMRC received funds to restore the catfish ponds on the Henson FmHA property in southern Leflore County. This was the first year of a three year effort to rehabilitate the pond levees, refurbish wells and install water control structures. Once the ponds are rehabilitated, the goal is to manage them for shorebird and waterfowl use. Due to staff shortages, the bulk of the work is being done through the Central Mississippi Refuges Complex with input from the NMRC staff.

#### ***2b. Upland Restoration: on-refuge***

Nothing to report.

#### ***2c. Wetland Restoration: off-refuge***

See Section 5c., Private Land Activities.

#### ***2d. Upland Restoration: off-refuge***

See Section 5c., Private Land Activities.

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# 3

## Habitat Management

### *3a. and b., Manage Water Levels and Moist Soil Units*

In 2002, the NMRC staff was busy managing the numerous moist soil units located on the three refuges and FmHA properties which include almost 80 water control structures. Additional water control structures are located in the agricultural fields on both Dahomey and Tallahatchie. During early spring, boards were removed to produce a slow draw down to provide habitat for shorebirds and other migratory birds. After the agricultural fields were drained and dried out, cooperative farmers began planting operations on both refuges. Then in the fall, boards were installed in the water control structures to prepare for the fall/winter migration.

Additional events worth noting are as follows:

- EO Jones, BT Harrigan and RM Galvan used explosives to open up beaver dams at Dahomey to keep water from backing onto neighboring agricultural fields.
- WB Woods removed boards on the two DU moist soil areas at Dahomey.
- In October, PR Denton added boards as needed on the water control structures on all three refuges.
- Due to heavy rainfall in October, the coop farmer at Dahomey was late harvesting his soy beans so the two DU areas could not be boarded until November. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the coop farmer began pumping the DU area.
- WB Woods evaluated the vegetation in the catfish ponds at Coldwater River and used the data gathered to make management recommendations.

### *3c. Graze/Mow/Hay*

- All roads and roadsides at Dahomey and Tallahatchie were mowed in May.
- Between August and October, all roadsides and trails were mowed at Dahomey and Tallahatchie in preparation for the hunting season, and in October the boundaries of many of the FmHA properties were mowed for fire protection.

### 3d. Farming

No cooperative farming occurred at Coldwater River NWR during 2002. At Dahomey, 7 % of the refuge acreage was farmed as was 15 % of the acreage at Tallahatchie. Table 8 identifies the acreage farmed and the crops planted on the two refuges.

There were no changes in the amount of cooperatively farmed acreage at Dahomey and Tallahatchie from 2001 to 2002. Although we may incrementally reduce the amount of farmed acreage on the refuges, in the immediate future cooperative farming will continue to be used to maintain desired succession by utilizing rotational crop planting among existing moist soil areas and to provide "hot" grains for migratory waterfowl.

NMRC requires coop farmers to leave 25 % of all crops planted or, in some instances, they perform services that enhance wildlife values. For example, at Dahomey the coop farmers have been reestablishing levees in rice fields after harvest and then flooding the fields with wells prior to migratory waterfowl arriving. The result is that at times thousands of waterfowl can be seen using these fields.

Table 8. Acreage Farmed and Crops Produced

Coop farmer or Refuge	acres in rice	acres in corn	acres in millet	acres in soybeans	Refuge Share
Clemons				292	winter pumping soybean fields
Herbison				239	maintenance of 80 acre moist soil unit
Dahomey NWR totals (531 acres farmed)					
Strider		76	40		100% of corn and millet left in the field
Tallahatchie NWR totals (668 acres farmed)					

***3e. Forest Cutting***

Nothing to report.

***3f. Prescribed Burning***

Nothing to report.

***3g. Control Pest Plants***

Nothing to report.

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# 4

## **Fish and Wildlife Management**

### ***4a. Bird Banding***

During the 2002 nesting season, 48 adult hen wood ducks and one adult hen hooded merganser were banded in nest boxes. Additionally, an effort was made to trap wood ducks in September using swim-in traps as part of the pre-season banding program. This effort focused on Coldwater River and the Walker Tract and was met with very limited success. A total of 3 adult hen wood ducks and one juvenile male wood duck were banded at Walker. No birds were captured at Coldwater River.

WB Woods participated in the Western Canada Cooperative Banding Program banding ducks in Alberta from August 2 to August 29. The crew of three used 14 traps set for 342 trap nights and banded a total of 3,498 ducks. Species banded included mallard (1,973), blue-wing teal (1,244), northern pintail (144), redhead (61), scaup (57), gadwall (17), and 22 individuals representing an additional 5 species.



Photo 8. Biologist Woods banding ducks in Alberta, Canada. RB

### ***4b. Disease Monitoring and Treatment***

Nothing to report.

#### **4c. *Reintroductions***

Nothing to report.

#### **4d. *Provide Nest Structures***

- Seventy-six wood duck nest boxes were monitored throughout the 2002 nesting season. Boxes were checked at least once a month and hens were banded when encountered. Nest box use increased over previous years with 86% of the available boxes used at least once by wood ducks. Increased monitoring efforts probably account for at least some of the increased use. Wasps, which likely exclude wood ducks from boxes, were removed when encountered. Dump nesting occurs frequently and results in lower than expected hatch rates. Table 9 summarizes the results of the 2002 nesting season.



Photo 9. A screech owl in one of the wood duck boxes. BW

- In addition to successful use by wood ducks, the nest boxes were also successfully used by hooded mergansers, screech owls, wrens, prothonotary warblers, tufted titmice, and woodpeckers.
- Future efforts will focus on replacing small experimental boxes with more traditional-sized boxes, reducing the amount of egg predation which occurs frequently (primarily gray rat snakes) and continuing to monitor the boxes frequently.



Photo 10. Barn owls on a rafter in one of the pole barns at the Complex. BW

Table 9. Summary of Nest Box Use During the 2002 Nesting Season

Location	Number of Boxes	Number Used by Wood Ducks	Number of Eggs Laid	Number of Eggs Hatched	Hatching Success
Coldwater River	6	5	83	38	46 %
Dahomey	35	35	796	310	39 %
Gillon	3	3	44	25	57 %
Pennington	3	2	70	37	53 %
Robertson	4	4	104	55	53 %
Tallahatchie	15	10	230	167	73 %
Walker	4	4	76	44	58 %
Wilkins	2	2	140	0	0%

#### *4e. Predator and Exotic Control*

- Nutria are abundant on many NMRC properties. They cause damage to levees and interfere with wildlife management activities. Nutria will enter swim-in traps set for ducks in order to feed on the bait (corn). Once they are in the traps, ducks will not enter. During banding activities in September, NMRC staff inadvertently captured and dispatched over 20 nutria from the Walker Tract and five from Coldwater River.
- Beaver are also common on NMRC properties and interfere with wildlife management activities by plugging culverts, ditches and water control structures. During spring of 2002, NMRC staff cleared beaver debris from numerous water control structures and cleared beaver dams from streams and ditches to release ponded water.
- Feral hog populations are apparently growing on many properties managed by NMRC. Sightings by staff and hunters are increasing annually. Hog activities cause damage to wildlife habitat, levees, roads, and crops of adjacent land owners. Feral hogs also have the potential of spreading disease in humans. The shooting of feral hogs by permitted hunters during open hunting seasons is encouraged.

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# 5

## Coordination Activities

### *5a. Interagency Coordination*

- NMRC hosted and participated with NRCS, the State Forestry Commission, the State Extension Service, the Grenada Public Schools, and other volunteers in labeling and wrapping trees for the annual tree “Giveaway Program” in Grenada County
- WB Woods participated in the Western Canada Cooperative Waterfowl Banding Program.
- WB Woods is working with Professor Ed Keiser who will be coordinating his graduate students to conduct herp censuses at the Starr FmHA properties in Quitman County.
- WB Woods coordinated with researchers from the University of Memphis regarding using Dahomey NWR as a site for research on canebrake restoration.
- RM Barkley coordinated with researchers from Winrock International who conducted background carbon measurements on NMRC and State properties as part of the carbon sequestration effort in the Region.
- RM Barkley accompanied engineers from JMT Engineering who evaluated refuge roads and parking lots as part of the TEA 21 program.

### *5b. Tribal Coordination*

Nothing to report.

### *5c. Private Land Activities*

- Requests for technical assistance were as popular as ever this year. Private land owners with property within our 26 county work area who have received habitat restoration assistance from NMRC appreciate the quality of our EO’s work and are spreading the word to their friends. Table 10 summarizes private lands work completed by during 2002.
- In other private lands activities, WB Woods participated in the WRP rankings in Coahoma, Bolivar, Sunflower, and Leflore counties.

Table 10. Private Lands Projects Completed in 2002

Project Name	Type	County	No. water control structures and levees	Wetland Acres	Reforestation
Brasher	MS partners	Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	40	
Sullivan	MS partners	Panola	1 wcs, 1 levee	60	10
Bell	MS partners	Tallahatchie	1 wcs	50	
McIngvale	Regional	Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	3	4
Juchheim	Regional	Tallahatchie	4 wcs, 2 levees	40	15
McAdams		Montgomery	1 wcs, 1 levee	1	5
Woods		Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	25	
Miles	Regional	Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	1	20
Walker	Regional	Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	1	20
Goodwin	Regional	Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	17	10
Campbell	MS partners	Grenada	4 wcs, 4 levees	50	
Bassie	MS partners	Leflore	3 wcs	41	
Jenkins		Grenada	1 wcs, 1 levee	18	
Dossett	Regional/MS	Boliver	1 wcs, 1 levee	10	11
Teoc	MS partners	Carroll	3 wcs	300	
Hardin	MS partners	Calhoun	1 wcs	45	
Hayward	MS partners	Grenada	5 wcs	120	
Wilbourn	MS partners	Grenada/ Tallahatchie	3 wcs	29	
Russell	MS partners	Leflore	1 wcs	45	
Plunkett	MS partners	Itawamba	1 wcs	17	
Total			35 wcs, 14 levees	990	

***5d. Oil and Gas Activities***

Nothing to report.

**5e. Cooperative/Friends Organization**

Nothing to report.

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# 6

## Resource Protection

### *6a. Law Enforcement*

Refuge Officers at NMRC were busy during 2002. The hunting seasons on Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs and off-refuge migratory bird seasons traditionally provide the most opportunity for our officers to make cases. This year was no different than any other. Vandalism, theft, fire, and illegal hunting occur frequently on FmHA properties. Evidence of other violations on properties can be seen on each new visit. NMRC ROs are responsible for resource protection of over 33,000 acres of refuge and FmHA properties scattered over 14 counties and comprised of over 120 separate tracts. The number of Violation Notices issued by NMRC officers was lower than in recent years due to staff limitations. See Table 11 for a list of the violations and the number of citations for each that were issued during 2002.

The following are the law enforcement highlights for 2002.

- During the 2002 Labor Day weekend, the traditional opening weekend of the state dove season, NMRC hosted a dove task force which included station ROs, the Division of Law Enforcement Special Agents from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and Conservation Officers from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP). Of the seven baited fields that were documented, one by PR Denton turned out to be important to the success of the detail and resulted in the majority of the citations issued.
- PR Denton conducted firearms qualifications for SA's and RO's at NMRC's small arms range.
- PR Denton assisted the MDWFP conduct four hunter safety classes here at NMRC's conference room and small arms range.
- Assisted by state Conservation Officers, PR Denton issued a Notice of Violation charging Take migratory game birds in violation of state law to a habitual game violator who they observed taking two ducks on Dahomey NWR. The violator, who had had his hunting privileges suspended for three years by the state beginning in 2001 for spotlighting deer, began duck hunting on Dahomey in mid-January. On the morning of January 26<sup>th</sup>, PR Denton and the state CO's observed the suspect hunting ducks on the refuge. After

Table 11. Law Enforcement Violations reported by NMRC during 2002

CODE	VIOLATION DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS
20.21(B)	Take with Shotgun Capable of Holding More than 3 Shells	6
20.23	Take Migratory Game Birds Before or After Legal Hours	2
20.24	Take Migratory Game Birds in Excess of the Daily Bag Limit	3
26.21(a)	Trespass by Person on a NWR	1
23.31	Travel in or Use of a Vehicle on Other Than Designated Rout of Travel	1
32.2(a)	Hunting Without a State License	2
32.2(e)	Hunt in Violation of Special Access Requirements	5
32.2(f)	Failure to comply with Special Hunting Regulations	4

conducting a field interview, PR Denton issued a Notice of Violation with a mandatory court appearance.

On November 14, 2002, just before court was to begin, the violator's lawyer approached the AUSA for the Northern District of Mississippi to initiate a plea bargain. In fact, a plea bargain was reached that was agreeable to the AUSA/Service and the suspect and was accepted by U.S. Magistrate Judge Bogan. The violator was sentenced to a \$ 500.00 fine, placed on supervised probation for one year and given four years no hunting anywhere in the world.

- RO Barkley and PR Denton were instructors at three Motorboat Operator Certification Courses in 2002; two in Slidell, LA, and one in Titusville, FL.
- PR Denton assisted station EO construct a pole barn and storage area immediately behind the firing line of the station small arms range, constructed benches and a table to go under the pole barn and rebuilt the target turning mechanisms for the range.
- PR Denton spent a week at Pelican Island NWR working on the Centennial Board Walk.



Photos 11, 12 and 13. PR Denton placing the planks for Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs on the Centennial Board Walk at Pelican Island NWR. CJ

- ROs Gard, Galvan and Barkley and PR Denton completed Refuge LE Inservice at the Lively Training Center in Tallahassee, FL.
- At the request of Vernon Miles, AUSA for the Federal Court in the Northern District of Mississippi, PR Denton began the process of updating and standardizing the collateral schedule so there would be consistency between the Northern and Southern Federal Court Districts.
- ROs Barkley and Galvan completed a Homeland Security detail at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, MO, during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations at the “Arch”.
- RO Galvan completed the Remington Arms Armorer training.
- With the assistance of the station’s YCCs, PR Denton posted all three refuges and 26 of the FmHA properties we administer.
- PR Denton completed NMRC’s 2002-03 hunting and fishing permits as well as the hunting and fishing regulation changes for the Federal Register and 50 CFR.
- Law Enforcement Officers from the City of Grenada, the City of Winona and the Grenada County Sheriff’s Office used our small arms range for their semiannual and annual weapons qualifications.
- Sometime during the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>, the headquarters at Dahomey NWR was broken into. A 4-wheeler, two electric drills, a GSA vehicle credit card, and two wrench sets were stolen. The Bolivar County Sheriff’s Office and the local field agent with the FBI were notified. At year’s end, the GSA credit card had been recovered.

#### **6b. Wildfire Preparedness**

Six members of the NMRC staff are qualified to participate at some level in combating wildfire. Four staff are qualified at the arduous level, two staff are qualified to participate in security details, one staff person is qualified to run a fire plow, one is qualified as a GIS technician, and one is qualified as a dispatcher. EO Jones and Roby participated in a wildfire assignment at the East Fork Fire in Utah. RO Galvan participated in a wildfire security detail on the Tool Box fire in Oregon.

***6c. Manage Permits and Economic Uses***

Nothing to report.

***6d. Contaminant Investigations and Cleanup***

Nothing to report.

***6e. Manage Water Rights***

Nothing to report.

***6f. Manage Cultural Resources***

Nothing to report.

***6g. Federal Facility Compliance Act***

Nothing to report

***6h. Land Acquisition***

We were notified by RO Realty that at the September Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of the 126 acre Sayle Tract as part of Tallahatchie NWR. At the end of the year the deed had not been recorded.

***6i. Wilderness and Natural Areas***

Nothing to report.

***6j. Threats and Conflicts***

Nothing to report.

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# 8

## Public Education and Recreation

### 8a. Provide Visitor Services

- PR Denton and WB Woods revised the station's Refuge Hunting Regulations to incorporate maps for small game hunting areas into the existing brochure. The result is a single brochure which contains all the regulations and maps of the properties open to hunting.
- Dahomey and Tallahatchie held youth gun deer hunts November 17-18 in conjunction with the state season. Participation was low but 2 youth hunters succeeded in taking deer.

Table 12. Harvest Data, 2002-03 Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	DAHOMEY	TALLAHATCHIE	TOTAL	CRIPPLED
Deer(Buck)	11	4	15	5
Deer (Doe)	12	2	14	4
Turkey	4	0	4	0
Squirrel	263	27	290	32
Rabbit	2	0	2	0
Raccoon	2	0	2	0
Wild Hog	3	0	3	0
Mallard	9	26	35	12
Wood Duck	4	7	11	0
Gadwall	3	10	13	4
American Wigeon	1	2	3	2
Teal	1	8	9	0
Other	1	8	9	3

- Hunters during Dahomey's spring turkey season harvested four mature gobblers.
- For the first time since the 1994 ice storm, a good hard mast crop was produced at Dahomey. Largely as a result of this mast crop, squirrel hunters enjoyed a good season.
- Ten fee title FmHA properties in Bolivar, Marshall, Quitman, and Sunflower Counties were open during the statewide season for small game hunting for the fourth consecutive year and continues to be popular. The properties total 2,850 acres and provide exceptional small game hunting opportunities for the public.

#### **8b. Outreach**

- In March and November, PR Denton assisted with the Wildlife Expo in Greenville, MS.
- Also in March, WB Woods judged a science fair held at Kirk Academy in Grenada.
- In April, WB Woods provided an overview of NMRC's resources and issues to Congressional Staffers at a "Congressional Staffer Day" held at Noxubee NWR, Brooksville, MS. All NWRs in Mississippi participated in this event.
- On April 20, WB Woods presented a program on amphibians to the Grenada Chapter of the Bluebird Society.
- In May, EO Jones assisted the staff of the Pvt. John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, MS, move large broodstock alligator gar and blue catfish from the rearing ponds to the hatchery holding house.
- In June, EO Jones, RM Barkley, PL Gard, and volunteer Diana Jones assisted with the Centennial Celebration/Open House at Pvt. John Allen National Fish Hatchery. U.S. Senator Thad Cochran was the keynote speaker.
- In September, PR Denton participated in a one week detail at Pelican Island NWR where he helped with construction of a board walk through the Refuge. The board walk has the names of each unit in the refuge system carved in the planks which are laid down in the order of entry into the system. Wayne got to lay the planks for Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs.
- In October, EO Jones, RO Denton, RM Galvan and WB Woods participated in the Great Delta Bear Affair that commemorated Teddy Roosevelt's historic bear hunt in the Delta and helped to publicize the plight of the endangered Louisiana Black Bear which also occurs in Mississippi.



Photo 14. EO Hal Jones, aka “Teddy Bear” in uniform at the Great Delta Bear Affair that commemorated Teddy Roosevelt’s historic bear hunt in the Delta at Rolling Fork, Mississippi. BW

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# 9

## Planning and Administration

### 9a. Comprehensive Management Planning

- In the first week in June, NMRC's Biological Review, the first step in the CCP planning process, was completed. A Draft of the Review was completed in December. In July, the Public Use Review portion of the CCP was completed with the draft of the Review completed in August. Initiation of the draft CCP is expected to begin in 2003.
- In December, WB Woods participated as a member of the Biological Review Team for Hatchie NWR in Tennessee.

### 9b. General Administration

The following table shows NMRC funding for 2002:

Table 13. NMRC Funding for 2002

Program	Accounting Code	Allocated
Refuge Operations	1261	408.4
MMS	1262	187.5
Initial allocation	6860	53
Firefighting Preparedness	9251	7
Construction	2962	0
Private Lands	1121	370
TOTAL		1,025.9

- EO Don Roby transferred to NMRC from Hatchie NWR, TN. Don had worked here from 1998 to 2001 and was able to hit the ground running.
- Biological Technician Kim Harrington transferred to Valley Springs, New York, and

changed careers by becoming a Wildlife Inspector with the Division of Law Enforcement.

- Refuge Managers Jeffery Lee, Dahomey, and Ramsey Russell, Tallahatchie, both departed on 01/13/02. Interestingly, they both transferred to the NRCS in Pearl, MS, and have offices next door to one another. Jeffery is a district wildlife biologist and Ramsey is a district forester.



**Stephen W. Gard**  
Project Leader



**Robert Barkley**  
Refuge Manager



**Becky Woods**  
Wildlife Biologist



**Alejandro Galvan**  
Refuge Manager



**Wayne Denton**  
Park Ranger



**Bobbie Willis**  
Office Assistant



**William "Hal" Jones**  
Equipment Operator



**Don Roby**  
Equipment Operator

Table 14. Staff List for NMRC in 2002

Permanent Full Time Employees	Grade	EOD Date	Departure Date
1. Stephen W. Gard Project Leader	GS-13	10/08/89	
2. Robert Barkley Refuge Manager	GS-12	05/28/92	
3. Becky Woods Wildlife Biologist	GS-11	02/03/01	
4. Alejandro Galvan Refuge Managaer	GS-11	10/07/01	
5. Wayne Denton Park Ranger (LE)	GS-9	05/28/95	
6. Jeffery Lee Refuge Manager	GS-11	09/27/98	01/13/02
7. Ramsey Russell Refuge Manager	GS-11	07/20/98	01/13/02
8. Kimberly Harrigan Biological Technician	GS-7	09/27/98	03/24/02
9. Bobbie Willis Office Automation Assistant	GS-7	09/28/98	
10. William "Hal" Jones Equipment Operator	WG-10	08/08/94	
11. Don Roby Equipment Operator	WG-08	05/02/02	

#### Volunteers

During 2002, NMRC had eight individuals volunteer to assist the staff. A total 983 hours were contributed. By category, those hours were in the Monitoring and Studies, Habitat Restoration, Fish and Wildlife Management, and Public Education and Recreation categories. With a small staff, the addition of almost 1/2 FTE from our volunteers was greatly appreciated. An award was presented to Mr. Karl Juchheim, our most active volunteer.

## Work Programs

- The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program was again a success, albeit with fewer enrollees than in the past. We used two young men at NMRC headquarters to maintain the lawn and assist PR Denton post the three refuges and 26 of the FmHA properties we administer. One young lady assisted with administrative matters at NMRC headquarters. Since the RM position at Dahomey was vacant, we did not use any YCC assistance there in 2002.
- YCC participants for 2002 were Derrick Hodges, Adam Dinkelacher and Wendy Roberson. Thank you for all that you accomplished!

## Equipment and Facilities

The following are significant equipment purchases during 2002:

- A John Deere 672CH Series II 6WD Grader
- A Sterling 15 yard Dump Truck
- A Ford F350 4X4 Shop Truck
- Two 4X4 4-wheelers

## Additional Administrative Highlights for 2002

The following are significant additional administrative activities that occurred at NMRC during 2002:

- In January, PL Gard, a member of the Promises Team, was selected as the Wildlife and Habitat Goals Team Leader. The team began the year developing National, Regional and Ecosystem Wildlife and Habitat Goals.
- PR Denton delivered Revenue Sharing payments to the eight counties where NMRC administers fee title properties.
- NMRC's Invasive Species report was completed by RM Barkley.
- RMs Barkley and Galvan prepared the MMS and RONS budget requests for NMRC and Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs.
- PL Gard attended the R4 Project Leaders meeting in New Orleans.
- OAA Willis attended the Administrative Workshop in Atlanta.

- PL Gard, the Central Gulf Ecosystem Team Leader, hosted the fall Team meeting in Gulfport, Mississippi.
- Office Automation Assistant Willis and EO Jones attended the Property Officer's Workshop in Memphis, TN.
- RM Barkley completed the Nationwide Invasive Species Survey-Phase 1.
- PL Gard hosted the Wildlife and Habitat Goals Team meeting in Homer, AK. The Team's draft National, Regional and Ecosystem Wildlife Habitat and Goals document was completed.
- RM Barkley completed NMRC's 2002 LAPS material and project write-ups for flood damages on Complex roads on all three refuges.
- GSA employees from Mississippi and Tennessee used our conference room for agency coordination meetings. This is the third time in just over a year that they have used the conference room. Grenada is midway between Memphis, TN, and Jackson, MS, and holding the meeting here is easier on their travel schedules.
- PL Gard and EO Jones assisted the Grenada Chamber of Commerce with the dedication of the I-55 lighting project at an Interstate Exchange here in Grenada. The station has assisted with this project for many years.
- EO Jones was appointed chairman of the R4 Wage Grade Committee which was formed after R4 completed its first ever Wage Grade meeting for all Wage Grade employees in the Region. The meeting was well received by both the employees and the Regional Directorate with RD Hamilton determined to address the issues that surfaced at the meeting.
- NMRC hosted a R4 Wage Grade Committee meeting where an Action Plan was developed and assignments were made to help address Wage Grade issues. EO Jones also attended the Fisheries Wage Grade meeting in Memphis and Refuge Wage Grade meetings at Noxubee NWR, MS, and Tensas NWR, LA.
- EO Jones and Ricky Campbell, Pvt. John Allen National Fish Hatchery, spent two days in the RO coming to grips with the upcoming Wage Grade position audits in R4. Hal also led an Area II Wage Grade conference call and attended the first Maintenance Workshop for Wage Grade Professional at the NCTC.
- EO Jones provided comments to the Wage Grade Committee for Wage Grade Standardized Position Descriptions and along with Ricky Campbell of the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery presented ten Action Items to RD Hamilton. The Action

Items were developed by the Regional Wage Grade Committee through a series of meetings that Hal attended throughout the Region.



Photo 16. NMRC hosting the Region 4 Wage Grade Committee meeting.

- RM Galvan updated the Refuge Real Property Inventory for NMRC.
- PL Gard completed four National Budget Packages for consideration by the National and Regional Chief's to jump start the process developed by the National Wildlife Populations, Habitat and Biodiversity Team.
- RM Barkley completed NMRC's RCAR 02 report.
- RM Barkley completed the Threats and Conflicts data entry for NMRC.
- WB Woods compiled GIS coverage for the Central Gulf Ecosystem Team.
- PL Gard coordinated, organized and distributed for prioritization all the Flex Fund Projects for the Lower Mississippi Valley and Central Gulf Ecoteams.
- RM Galvan completed the Public Use and Recreation Reports as part of the RMIS process.

- RM Barkley completed the RMIS Accomplishment Report and the Request for Engineering Services Report for FY-03 MMS Projects.
- RM Galvan attended the Grant Writing for Conservation training course at NCTC.
- EO Jones attended a Designing and Delivering training course at the NCTC.
- RM Galvan completed fact sheets for all refuges in the complex for the National Wildlife Refuge System web page.

#### Credits

Robert Barkley: Introduction, 6c,d,e,f,h,i,j, 9a

Becky Woods: 1a,b, 2a,b,c,d, 4a,b,c,d,e, 5e, 6b, 8a,b, technical assistance in document preparation and proof reading

Alejandro Galvan: 3a,b,c,d,e,f,g, 5a,b,c,d

Wayne Denton: 6a

Steve Gard: proof reading

Bobbie Willis: proof reading